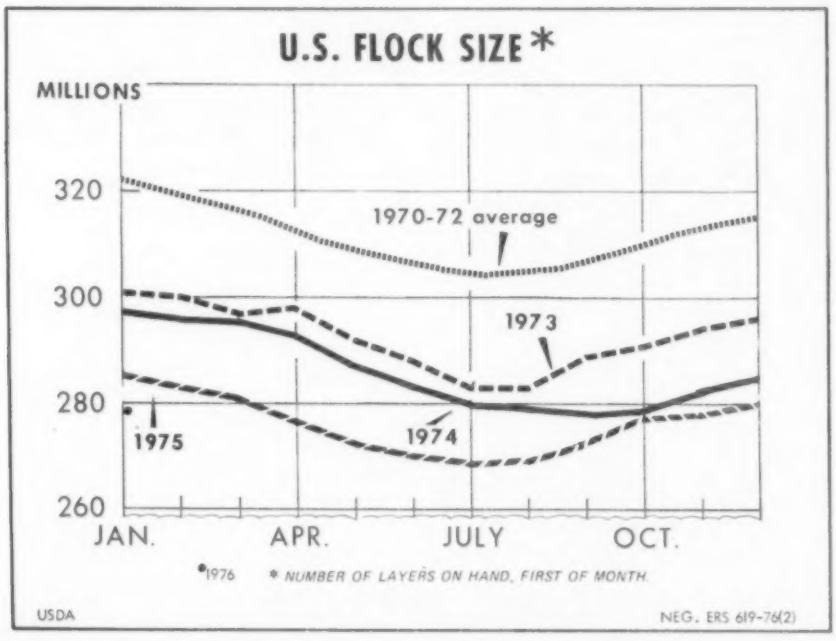
PES-289 MARCH 1976

POULTRY AND EGG Situation

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Table 1—Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	1974-75				1975-76			
		Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
		Eggs							
Farm production	Mil. eggs	5,305	5,529	5,560	5,001	5,313	5,508	5,514	
Average number of layers on farms	Mil.	284	285	285	282	279	280	280	
Rate of lay per layer	No.	18.7	19.4	19.5	17.7	19.0	19.6	19.7	
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	55.4	59.0	57.1	54.3	57.7	64.1	62.2	
14 Metro areas price									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	65.7	71.4	67.8	63.1	69.1	75.8	73.3	
Retail price (BLS)									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	81.0	84.1	84.2	83.9	78.1	86.1	89.2	
Price paid for laying feed	Dol. per ton	167	164	160	151	143	143	143	
Egg-feed price ratio	Pounds	6.6	7.2	7.1	7.2	8.1	9.0	8.7	
Stocks, first of month:									
Shell	Thous. cases	73	52	36	32	55	40	23	13
Frozen	Mil. lb.	64.7	60.1	54.2	52.2	46.6	42.3	36.3	32.9
Replacement chicks hatched	Mil.	33.0	32.2	35.0	37.3	28.6	31.1	35.7	
		Poultry							
Federally inspected slaughter, cert.									
Broilers	Mil. lb.	524.5	589.6	646.2	570.2	560.7	691.4		
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	215.2	119.9	64.9	47.1	220.2	157.5		
Price at farm, live weight									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	24.2	21.9	24.2	24.6	27.2	24.0	24.3	
Chicken, excluding broilers	Ct. per lb.	10.8	10.9	9.2	9.4	14.7	15.1	11.8	
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	30.8	33.4	31.8	30.8	36.5	36.0	33.6	
9-city wholesale broiler price	Ct. per lb.	41.9	40.7	41.6	41.4	45.8	41.8	41.9	
Retail price (BLS)									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	58.2	60.4	59.3	58.6	66.5	65.5	63.8	
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	71.0	68.9	69.2	71.6	77.4	75.8	75.4	
Broiler-feed price	Dol. per ton	183	180	176	167	158	160	158	
Broiler-feed price ratio	Pounds	2.6	2.4	2.8	2.9	3.4	3.0	3.1	
Turkey-feed price	Dol. per lb.	187	184	178	168	164	165	165	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Pounds	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.7	4.5	4.4	4.1	
Stocks, first of month:									
Broilers, fryers, roasters	Mil. lb.	36.3	37.0	37.2	31.1	21.7	21.4	22.3	21.3
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	554.6	372.0	275.0	267.1	483.5	287.6	195.2	188.7
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	943.5	555.3	456.2	437.8	610.8	407.1	313.6	304.1
Average weekly placement of broiler chicks in 21 States	Mil.	51.5	54.6	54.3	56.9	56.7	58.4	60.2	



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SUMMARY

Look for substantially larger broiler and turkey meat output and for little change in egg production this winter and spring from a year ago. While prices during the first half of 1976 will be down from October-December 1975, egg prices likely will average above a year earlier while broiler and turkey prices may be near January-June 1975 levels.

Egg production in 1975 continued the downward trend of recent years, slipping a little over 2 percent from 1974 and 8 percent below the record large 1971 production. Layer numbers in 1975 were down a little over 3 percent but the rate of lay was up from the previous year.

January 1 layer numbers were 2 percent below January 1, 1975. Replacement pullets entering the laying flock may increase about 4 percent during January-March but then fall 6 percent in April-June. However, the size of the laying flock in coming months will be influenced significantly by producers' decisions regarding the force molting of their old layers.

Layer numbers are expected to gain on 1975 this winter but drop off in the spring. The rate of lay likely will average above a year earlier for the first half of 1976. Thus, egg production in the first half of 1976 should about equal January-June 1975.

Output in the second half of 1976 will depend on the first half replacement hatch and on how many old layers producers force molt this spring.

Prices weakened in late January and continued downward during February but remained above a year earlier. New York wholesale prices for Grade A large eggs averaged near the 55 cents a dozen level in late February, around 5 cents above a year earlier. Egg prices likely will advance as demand increases for Easter but decline as usual in the spring. Second half egg price are expected to increase seasonally but average near or below July-December 1975.

Broiler producers responded to easing feed prices and stronger broiler prices in 1975 by increasing production. Broiler production was down sharply in early 1975, but gained and exceeded 1974 by 11 percent last fall. Broiler chick placements and eggs set for 1976 marketings through April are up

The next issue of the *Poultry and Egg Situation* will be published in early June

around 9 percent from a year earlier. First half 1976 output is expected to be up a tenth from 1975. Prospects for favorable profit margins in coming months will result in broiler producers continuing to place more chicks than a year earlier. Marketings will continue to gain next summer, but the increase over 1975 likely will narrow.

Broiler prices for 1975 were the highest of any year in recent history. Wholesale broiler prices in nine cities averaged 45 cents a pound, up nearly 7 cents from 1974 and 3 cents above the high 1973 prices. Prices declined in late 1975, but strengthened in early 1976 and averaged 42 cents a pound in January. Broiler prices this year will be bolstered by increased consumer disposable incomes, continued relatively small pork supplies, and relatively high red meat prices throughout the year. Broiler prices are expected to average in the low to mid 40's through midyear. Some seasonal strength is likely next summer, but prices probably will average well below the 50 cents a pound of July-September 1975.

Turkey meat output in 1975 was down 7 percent from 1974, even though output during the last quarter of 1975 was up 7 percent. Turkey growers in late 1975 indicated plans to raise 6 percent more turkeys this year than in 1975. While producers may alter their plans somewhat, in the past these early intentions have been a good indicator of turkey production. The seasonally light first half 1976 output likely will be 15-20 percent above January-June 1975. However, turkey meat supplies through midyear may be about the same as a year ago. Increased output will be about offset by a 80-million-pound reduction in cold storage turkey stocks of January 1. Output will increase seasonally in the second half of 1976, but the relative increase over 1975 will narrow sharply.

Turkey prices trended lower in late 1975 and early 1976. New York wholesale prices for 8-16 pound young hens averaged about 47 cents a pound in January, down 11 cents from last October and 5 cents below January 1975. However, prices have strengthened in recent weeks and likely will average near last year's levels in the first half of 1976.

Egg, Poultry, and Livestock Production and changes from a year earlier

	1974				1975				1976[1]	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
Eggs (Mil. cases)	46.4	46.6	45.0	45.2	44.7	44.3	44.6	45.2	(45.1)	(44.3)
Percent change	0	-1	-1	-3	-4	-5	-1	0	1	0
Broiler[2] (Mil. lbs.)	1,956	2,105	2,055	1,801	1,833	2,061	2,080	1,992	(2,015)	(2,270)
Percent change	+6	+6	+3	-8	-6	-2	+1	+11	+10	+10
Turkeys[2] (Mil. lbs.)	216	353	670	596	166	289	625	635	(200)	(345)
Percent change	+38	+25	+6	-17	-23	-18	-7	+7	+20	+19
Beef[3] (Mil. lbs.)	5,434	5,638	5,751	6,021	5,833	5,592	5,942	6,297	(6,250)	(6,000)
Percent change	+1	+12	+15	+7	+7	-1	+3	+5	+7	+7
Pork[3] (Mil. lbs.)	3,378	3,531	3,243	3,431	3,044	2,914	2,512	2,836	(2,750)	(2,850)
Percent change	+4	+11	+16	+3	-10	-17	-23	-17	-10	-2

Egg, Poultry, and Livestock Prices

	1974				1975				1976[1]	
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV	I	II
Eggs, New York[4] (Cents/dozen)	67.5	45.9	56.0	63.4	59.0	50.0	57.4	64.7	(62-64)	(52-54)
Broilers, 9-City[5] (Cents/lb.)	39.3	35.3	37.7	40.7	41.2	43.7	50.3	45.1	(42-44)	(42-44)
Turkeys, New York[6] (Cents/lb.)	50.2	39.8	45.4	53.3	48.6	51.1	57.1	56.0	(48-50)	(50-52)
Choice Steers, Omaha (Dollars/100 lbs.)	45.5	40.0	43.9	38.2	35.7	48.0	48.6	46.0	(39-41)	(44-46)
Barrows and Gilts, 7 Markets (Dol./100 lbs.)	38.4	28.0	36.6	39.1	39.4	46.1	58.8	52.2	(48-50)	(46-48)

[1]Forecast. [2]Fererally inspected Slaughter. [3]Commercial Production. [4]Wholesale, Grade A large white. [5]Wholesale weighted average. [6]Wholesale, 8-16 pound young hens.

POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

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Feed-Price Ratios Ease

The product feed-price ratios (pound of feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs or 1 pound of liveweight broiler or turkey) for turkey and eggs declined from mid-December to mid-January while the broiler ratio increased slightly. The decline in the ratio for turkey and eggs resulted from a drop in product prices as feed prices were unchanged. The higher ratio for broilers was caused by a slight increase in broiler prices and a small decline in broiler feed. The egg-feed price ratio in mid-January was 8.7, down from 9.0 in December but well above the 7.1 of a year earlier. The turkey-feed price ratio at 4.1 was down from 4.4 in December but above the 3.6 of a year ago; the broiler feed-price ratio at 3.1 was up from both December's 3.0 and January 1975's 2.8.

Our estimated costs and returns indicate that although broiler and turkey producers' profit margins narrowed during the last quarter of 1975, they were still operating well in the black (tables 11, 12, and 13). The decline in profits largely resulted from a drop in market prices for broilers and turkeys. Profit margins for egg producers widened substantially for October-December because of higher egg prices. Production costs in early 1976 likely have changed little from October-December, but market prices for eggs, broilers, and turkeys are somewhat lower. However, current prices for eggs and broilers are moderately above the estimated cost of production, while turkey prices are likely near or below production costs.

Market prices of corn and soybean meal, the major ingredients in poultry rations, have been unusually stable thus far in 1976. Corn prices (No. 2 yellow at Chicago) in mid-February averaged around $2.70 bushel, up only about a nickel from mid-January. Soybean meal (44% Decatur) in mid-February was about $130 a ton, about the same as a month earlier. Although corn prices in early 1976 have been below a year earlier, there may be some further modest price strength in coming months because of stepped-up domestic feeding and continued record large exports. Present feed markets also are being influenced by dry conditions in areas of the West and concerns about 1976 winter wheat yields. Prices for both feed grains and soybean meal in the second half of 1976 will reflect developments in the 1976 crops as well as the demand for feed grains.

Farmers indicated as of January 1 that they planned to plant nearly 81 million acres to corn in 1976, up 4 percent from 1975, and a total of 126 million acres to corn, sorghum, oats, and barley, 2 percent more than in 1975. Soybean producers indicated plans to plant about 51 million acres of soybeans this spring, 7 percent less than in 1975. Even with the expected cutback in acreage, soybean supplies will be adequate, assuming normal yields, because of the large prospective carryover next fall. An updated appraisal of this year's planting plans by farmers will be made in early April and this will be published on April 15.

Larger Red Meat Supplies Will Dampen Poultry Prices

Poultry producers will face more competition from red meats this winter and spring than a year earlier. About a 7 percent increase in beef supplies is in prospect for the first half of 1976. Pork output is continuing below 1975 this winter. But as the year progresses the margin under a year earlier will lessen and by midyear production may be above 1975. Total red meat supplies (beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton) are expected to total 2-4 percent above a year ago in the first half of 1976.

Relatively strong prices for cattle and hogs will help offset some of the pressures on poultry prices resulting from the increased red meat supplies. In addition, a much larger share of beef output will be higher priced fed beef that may not be as directly competitive with poultry meat. Choice steer prices during January-March may average around $40 per 100 pounds. But if nonfed slaughter declines as much as now seems probable, prices could average in the mid $40's for spring. Barrow and gilts at seven markets during January-March may average near $50 per 100 pounds. Expected gains in hog slaughter from winter to spring may push hog prices down into the mid- to upper $40 range during April-June.

Second half 1976 beef supplies may not differ much from 1975, but larger supplies of other meats may hold Choice steer prices to near or below July-

December 1975's $47. Pork supplies will increase during 1976, with second half gains in pork production more than offsetting the first half decline. Although hog prices likely will decline more often than they increase during the year, the continued small pork supplies will keep hog prices relatively high throughout 1976.

EGGS

Production Continues to Slip

Egg production in 1975 dropped a little over 2 percent below 1974 to 64.3 billion eggs. During the past 4 years output has declined a little over 8 percent or almost 6 billion eggs. The lower 1975 production was the result of fewer layers since the rate of lay was up about 1 percent.

Layers on farms and eggs produced

Calendar quarters	Number of layers		Eggs per layer		Eggs produced	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Mil. cs.*	*Mil. cs.*
I	295	282	56.6	57.0	46.4	44.7
II	285	273	58.8	58.5	46.6	44.3
III	279	272	58.1	59.0	45.0	44.6
IV	283	279	57.4	58.4	45.2	45.2
Annual	286	276	230.7	232.8	183.1	178.7

Egg-type replacement hatch, by quarters, 1965-75

Year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Year
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*
1965	63.9	94.5	45.3	40.8	244.5
1966	71.1	106.0	53.2	54.4	284.7
1967	76.1	95.2	52.3	43.8	267.4
1968	62.9	83.3	55.9	55.1	257.2
1969	66.0	83.6	58.8	56.5	264.9
1970	78.9	92.5	57.5	56.6	285.5
1971	70.5	87.1	57.0	49.1	263.7
1972	64.4	73.9	56.0	51.3	245.7
1973	66.1	77.0	63.2	60.8	267.1
1974	59.5	75.0	51.9	50.3	236.7
1975	59.2	68.7	54.0	47.5	229.4

The Nation's laying flock averaged around 276 million birds in 1975, down 9 million from a year earlier. The drop in layer numbers would have been greater if producers had not kept their old hens longer by force molting them. The egg-type hatch indicates that around 28 million fewer replacement pullets entered the flock in 1975 than in 1974. However the culling of old birds dropped sharply. Mature chickens under federal inspection in 1975 were down almost 18 million from a year previous.

The rate of lay rose almost 2 eggs per hen in 1975 to 233 eggs. A slight lag in March-June was more than offset by increases during the rest of the year. The rate of lay has jumped almost 10 eggs per hen during the past 4 years.

After trailing 1974 during the first 8 months of 1975, production moved above a year earlier in Sep-

Table 2—Forced molt layers as a percent of hens and pullets of laying age, first of month, selected States, 1975-76

State	Being molted				Molt completed			
	January		February		January		February	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Alabama	2.0	.5	1.5	2.0	8.5	13.0	9.0	7.5
Arkansas	2.5	.5	2.5	.5	7.0	6.5	5.5	6.0
California	8.0	4.5	10.0	10.0	30.0	39.0	31.0	39.5
Florida	1.5	2.0	2.5	2.5	6.5	19.5	8.5	13.5
Georgia	2.0	4.0	8.0	2.5	12.5	18.0	13.5	13.0
Indiana	.5	1.5	3.0	1.0	3.5	7.0	6.0	5.5
Iowa	.5	.5	.5	1.0	.5	2.0	1.0	4.0
Mississippi	.5	1.5	.5	.5	4.5	1.0	4.5	1.0
New York	.5	.5	1.5	1.0	4.5	8.0	3.0	9.0
North Carolina	1.5	1.0	8.0	2.5	9.5	8.0	10.0	6.5
Ohio	2.0	.5	.5	1.0	4.5	8.0	6.0	6.0
Oregon	10.5	3.0	5.5	3.0	18.0	29.0	25.0	26.0
Pennsylvania	1.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.5	7.0	5.0	7.0
South Carolina	.5	2.5	2.5	4.0	7.5	7.5	6.0	5.0
Tennessee	2.5	.5	2.5	1.5	7.5	7.0	5.0	5.5
Texas	2.0	.5	1.5	.5	4.0	5.0	5.0	3.0
Washington	7.5	7.0	14.0	11.0	23.0	37.5	25.0	37.0
17 States	3.0	2.2	4.8	3.6	11.7	16.0	12.3	14.5

Table 3– Egg-type chick hatchery operations, United States and 5 States reporting weekly, 1974-76

Month	United States				5 States[1]					
	Hatch		Change from year earlier		Hatch			Period[2]	Egg settings advanced 3 weeks		
	1974-75	1975-76	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month	1974-75	1975-76	Change from year earlier		1974-75	1975-76	Change from year earlier
	Thou.	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct*		*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*
July	36,674	38,462	5	2	9,115	9,621	6	June 29-Aug. 2	13,633	13,838	2
August	34,945	35,302	1	1	8,517	8,816	4	Aug. 3-Aug. 30	9,529	10,211	7
September	32,091	34,237	7	11	7,754	8,249	6	Aug. 31-Sept. 27	9,116	9,501	4
October	35,489	35,348	0	-2	8,942	8,893	-1	Sept. 28-Nov. 1	12,865	13,116	2
November	33,005	28,642	-13	-14	7,504	7,592	1	Nov. 2-Nov. 29	8,727	9,342	7
December	32,159	31,060	-3	-9	7,992	7,760	-3	Nov. 30-Jan.3	11,231	10,895	-3
January	34,973	35,655	2	3	8,788	9,857	12	Jan. 4-Jan. 31	9,854	10,783	9
February	37,343			5	9,408			Feb. 1-Feb. 28			
March	46,009				10,832			Feb. 29-Apr. 3			
April	48,052				9,459						
May	48,422				10,594						
June	40,880				9,811						

[1] The five States are Georgia, Mississippi, Oregon, Washington, and California. [2] Weeks of 1975-76 and corresponding weeks of 1974-75.

tember-November, but dropped slightly below again in December. Weaker-than-expected egg prices in early December resulted in increased cullings of old hens and layer numbers declined. Output gained but stayed about 1 percent below a year ago in January. Layer numbers during the month were down nearly 2 percent, but the rate of lay gained about 1 percent. Although early reports indicated that the rate of lay would be lower because of cold weather, the Nation's flocks produced an average of 19.7 eggs per bird this January, compared with 19.5 a year previous. The rate of lay continues to average above a year earlier, despite the large number of force-molted layers in the flocks (table 2).

Egg production during the first half of 1976 is expected to total near January-June 1975. The rate of lay likely will average above 1975 but layer numbers may drop. Layer numbers on January 1, 1976, at 280 million, were 2 percent below a year earlier. There are about 4 percent more replacement pullets to enter the flock this winter, but 6 percent fewer this spring than last year. However, producers' decisions regarding the force molting of old hens will play a crucial role in determining the size of the laying flock in coming months.

Egg prices have remained fairly strong in early 1976 and producers are more optimistic about future prospects. Producers will likely maintain the relatively high level of force moltings of past months through this winter. This would mean fewer old hens culled and, combined with more replacement pullets, result in a gain in layer numbers. Weekly reports indicate fewer mature chickens were slaughtered under federal inspection in January than a year earlier.

Layer numbers are expected to drop back in the spring as fewer replacement pullets enter the flock and the culling of old layers tops last spring. The relationship of egg prices and feed prices, following the usual break in egg prices after the Easter demand is filled, will determine how many old hens are culled this spring.

The number of old layers culled this spring and replacement pullets hatched in the first half of

Pullet chicks placed for laying flocks, 1967-71 average and 1972-76*

Month	1967-71 average	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*
January	22.6	22.1	21.7	20.0	19.7	20.2
February	24.4	23.1	22.9	21.3	20.8	
March	33.0	26.7	29.1	26.0	25.7	
April	36.7	29.8	30.0	30.1	26.5	
May	34.6	28.8	30.6	28.8	27.1	
June	27.5	24.1	24.9	24.2	22.9	
July	22.7	22.0	23.1	20.6	21.7	
August	20.8	21.3	23.8	19.8	20.3	
September	21.5	20.5	24.1	18.2	19.7	
October	21.7	21.4	25.9	19.9	20.1	
November	19.6	18.6	22.5	18.7	16.6	
December	19.7	18.4	20.0	18.4	17.9	
Total	304.8	276.8	298.6	266.0	258.9	

*One-half of egg-type chick hatched plus pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders.

Shell egg prices

Calendar quarters	Received by producers		New York wholesale[1]			
			Large		Medium	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Cents per doz.	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*
I	62.4	55.2	67.5	59.0	63.4	53.9
II	44.0	46.9	45.9	50.0	36.9	42.8
III	48.8	50.9	56.0	57.5	49.2	48.0
IV	56.4	58.2	63.4	64.7	59.9	61.2
Annual	52.9	52.8	58.2	57.8	52.3	51.4

[1] Grade A white.

1976 will largely determine the size of the laying flock in the second half of 1976. The hatch of egg-type chicks in January was 2 percent above last year and eggs in incubators on February 1 were up 5 percent (table 3). Increases in the hatch of chicks in coming months may be limited by the size of the egg-type hatchery supply flock. Cumulative placements of pullets 7-18 months earlier indicates the hatchery flock will average about 17 percent below 1975 during January-June 1976.

1975 Egg Prices Sluggish

Egg prices were sluggish during much of 1975 and averaged below 1974 despite a little over 2 percent drop in egg production. New York wholesale prices for Grade A large eggs averaged 57.8 cents a dozen in 1975, slightly below a year earlier. Egg prices strengthened in the closing months of 1975, spurred by slightly less production and a pickup in the demand for eggs for holiday baking use. In early 1976, prices have seesawed. They dropped in late December and early January and advanced in mid-January when egg supplies tightened. Large eggs at New York averaged around 68 cents a dozen in January, 6 cents above a year earlier. Prices weakened again in late January and continued to drop in February, but remained above a year earlier.

Egg prices are expected to advance as demand picks up for Easter but show their usual seasonal drop in the spring. However, prices for the first half of 1976 will likely average above January-June 1975. Higher prices of meats, improved general economic conditions, greater hatching use and some increase in breaker demand should help bolster egg prices.

Breaking Use Down in 1975

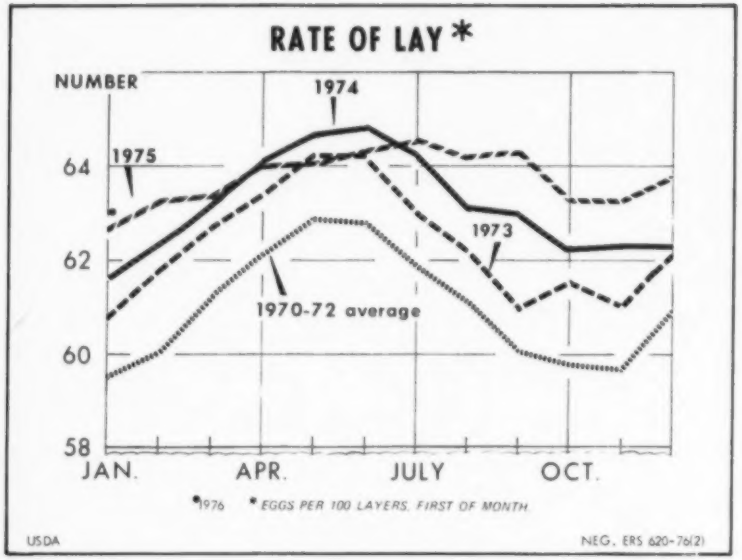
The demand for egg products was very sluggish in 1975 and breaking use dropped nearly 12 percent. During the period of January 5, 1975-January 3, 1976 a total of 18.4 million cases of shell eggs were broken under federal inspection (table 4). Production of egg products totaled 670 million pounds, down 83 million pounds from a year previous. Frozen eggs dropped 16 percent to 302 million pounds while dried eggs at 56 million pounds were down 22 percent. However, liquid egg production for immediate consumption rose 19 percent.

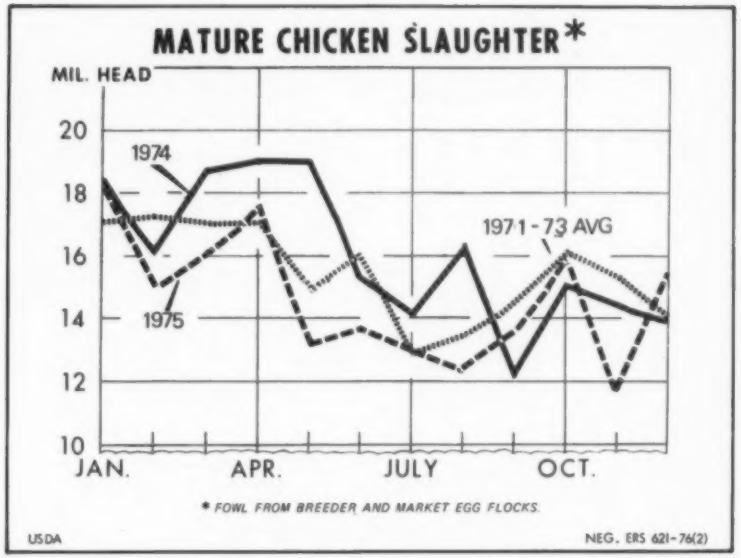
Weekly reports indicate breaking use continues to run well below 1975 levels in early 1976. However, breakers may have to increase their activity in coming months because of the low cold storage stocks. On February 1, 1976 cold storage holdings of frozen eggs totaled 32.9 million pounds, almost 19 million pounds below a year earlier and the lowest level for the date since 1951.

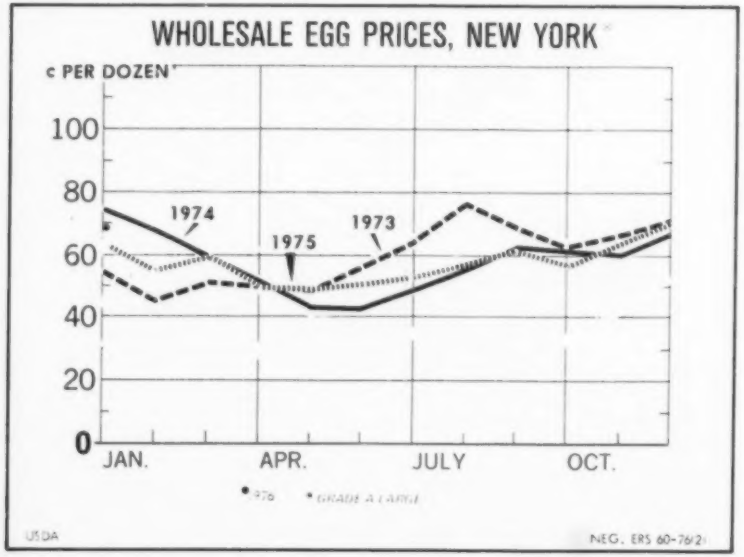
Table 4—Shell eggs broken and egg products produced under federal inspection, 1974-75

Period[1]	Shell eggs broken		Egg products produced[2]					
			Liquid[3]		Frozen		Dried	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Thou. doz.	*Thou. doz.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*
Jan. 5-Feb. 1	39,759	39,854	22,360	22,012	22,395	22,380	4,544	4,220
Feb. 2-Mar. 1	45,336	36,547	24,695	21,409	26,414	20,181	5,250	3,240
Mar. 2-Mar. 29	52,363	34,525	27,359	22,941	30,987	18,866	6,099	2,954
Mar. 30-Apr. 26	50,096	38,774	26,930	23,095	30,688	21,215	5,883	3,955
Apr. 27-May 24	57,487	45,509	27,239	25,685	35,223	25,945	6,955	4,329
May 25-June 30	75,913	67,789	36,208	36,389	44,363	39,645	8,996	6,299
July 1-July 19	40,385	36,159	19,551	18,107	23,210	20,585	4,688	3,827
July 20-Aug. 16	54,382	50,116	24,735	27,421	32,058	26,067	5,607	5,123
Aug. 17-Sept. 13	48,229	46,690	23,170	26,074	27,892	24,155	4,945	4,903
Sept. 14-Oct. 11	48,024	48,056	25,108	25,893	25,363	24,831	5,687	5,418
Oct. 12-Nov. 8	46,268	44,074	25,873	26,108	24,476	21,635	5,291	5,482
Nov. 9-Dec. 6	38,599	33,638	22,690	20,319	19,420	19,155	4,713	3,983
Dec. 7-Jan. 3	30,491	29,676	17,788	16,458	15,900	17,901	3,244	2,364

[1] Weeks in 1975 and corresponding weeks in 1974. [2] Includes ingredients added. [3] Liquid egg product produced for immediate consumption and for processing.


RATE OF LAY *
NUMBER
64
62
60
58
1974
1975
1973
1970-72 average
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
• 1976 * EGGS PER 100 LAYERS, FIRST OF MONTH
USDA
NEG. ERS 620-76(2)


MATURE CHICKEN SLAUGHTER *
MIL. HEAD
20
18
16
14
12
10
1974
1971-73 AVG
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* FOWL FROM BREEDER AND MARKET EGG FLOCKS.
USDA
NEG. ERS 621-76(2)


WHOLESALE EGG PRICES, NEW YORK *
¢ PER DOZEN
100
80
60
40
20
0
1974
1975
1973
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
• 1976 * GRADE A LARGE
USDA
NEG. ERS 60-76(2)

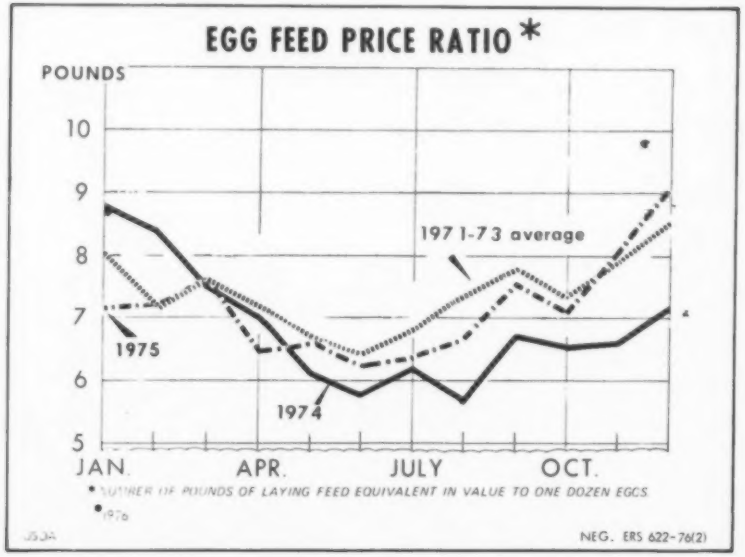

EGG FEED PRICE RATIO *
POUNDS
10
9
8
7
6
5
1971-73 average
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NUMBER OF POUNDS OF LAYING FEED EQUIVALENT IN VALUE TO ONE DOZEN EGGS.
• 1976
USDA
NEG. ERS 622-76(2)

Table 5—Egg supplies available to civilians for food, by quarter, 1974-75

Item	Unit	January-March			April-June		
		1974	1975	Change from year earlier	1974	1975	Change from year earlier
Beginning stocks	Million dozen	33.8	42.2	8.4	31.7	36.7	5.0
Farm Production	do.	1,392.0	1,339.6	-52.4	1,397.3	1,329.7	-67.6
Imports	do.	3.8	3.0	-.8	1.6	0.9	-.7
Exports and shipments	do.	11.9	12.8	.9	18.0	17.3	-.7
Military procurements	do.	13.7	9.8	-3.9	14.3	12.2	-2.1
Eggs used for hatching	do.	101.9	96.0	-5.9	99.7	99.3	-.4
Supplies available to civilians for food:							
Total	do.	1,302.1	1,266.2	-35.9	1,298.6	1,238.5	-60.1
Per capita	Number	74.7	72.1	-2.6	74.4	70.4	-4.0
Civilian population	Million	209.1	210.8	1.7	209.5	211.2	1.7

Item	Unit	July-September			October-December		
		1974	1975	Change from year earlier	1974	1975	Change from year earlier
Beginning stocks	Million dozen	44.9	38.9	-6.0	51.9	41.0	-10.9
Farm production	do.	1,349.9	1,336.8	-13.1	1,354.7	1,355.8	1.1
Imports	do.	5.9	1.6	-4.3	2.3	.2	-2.1
Exports and shipments	do.	14.1	18.4	4.3	12.6	13.7	1.1
Military procurements	do.	13.1	10.1	-3.0	13.4	11.0	-2.4
Eggs used for hatching	do.	81.7	90.2	8.5	86.9	93.7	6.8
Supplies available to civilians for food:							
Total	do.	1,291.8	1,258.6	-33.2	1,296.0	1,278.6	-17.4
Per capita	Number	73.9	71.3	-2.6	73.9	72.3	-1.6
Civilian population	Million	209.9	211.7	1.8	210.4	212.2	1.8

Foreign Trade Increases

Shipments to U.S. territories and exports of shell eggs and egg products increased in 1975 (table 5). Shipments totaled nearly 900,000 cases (shell equivalent) in 1975, up 15 percent from 1974. Shell eggs gained 26 percent and comprised 88 percent of total shipments. Eggs used for hatchery purposes were 69 percent above a year earlier. Egg product shipments dropped around 140,000 pounds to 3.3 million pounds.

Exports of shell eggs and egg products in 1975 totaled almost 1.2 million cases (shell equivalent), up 68,600 cases from 1974. Shell egg exports made up 64 percent of the total and were up 15 percent from a year earlier. Although Canada imposed quotas on U.S. eggs moving into that country, shell egg exports to Canada were up substantially. Canada received over one half of all U.S. shell egg exports. Egg product exports dropped around 6 percent to nearly 430,000 cases (shell equivalent). Japan is the largest buyer of our egg product exports. The United Kingdom received the largest amount of dried egg exports in 1974, but they took only about one-third as much in 1975.

Imports of shell eggs and egg products in 1975 dropped 58 percent to 190,000 cases (shell equivalent). The reason for this large drop was the sharp reduction in the imports from Canada. Nearly 90 percent of all U.S. imports in 1975 were from Canada.

More Eggs for Hatchings Use

Eggs for hatchery use in 1975, at 12.6 million cases, were up 300,000 cases and accounted for nearly 7 percent of total production (table 5). The large jump in the hatch of broiler-type chicks in the last half of 1975 offset the reduced first half broiler hatch and lower egg-type hatch for the year. Hatching use will probably continue higher than last year during the first half of 1976. The hatch of broiler chicks will be up sharply and a few more egg-type chicks may be hatched.

BROILERS

Small Increase in 1975 Output

The broiler industry had a very good year in 1975 following a year of generally negative profits for many producers. Profitability was poor in early 1975, but picked up as feed prices eased and broiler prices gained. Broiler producers responded to the improved profitability by expanding production.

Broilers slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	723.9	671.2	3.77	3.77	1,956.1	1,833.0
II	770.0	755.5	3.80	3.76	2,104.7	2,061.5
III	755.7	773.9	3.77	3.70	2,054.9	2,079.6
IV	650.8	721.2	3.83	3.82	1,801.0	1,992.0
Annual	2,900.4	2,921.8	3.79	3.76	7,916.8	7,966.1

Output in federally inspected plants in early 1975 was down nearly a tenth from a year earlier, but gained throughout the year and reached record levels during October-December. For all of 1975 output in federally inspected plants totaled 7,966 million pounds (certified, ready-to-cook), up nearly 1 percent from 1974. However, total output for 1975 may have only about matched 1974's output because each year a larger percent of total young chickens are slaughtered under federal inspection. In 1974, 97.2 percent of the total young chickens produced were slaughtered in federally inspected plants. This compares with 96.7 percent in 1973 and 95.7 percent in 1972. The percentage increase in federally inspected slaughter has been largely caused by many States turning their inspection responsibility over to the Federal Government.

Broilers slaughtered in federally inspected plants during 1975 increased by nearly 1 percent to 2,922 million. However, a small decline in average marketing weights resulted in smaller liveweight output. The small increase in the output of certified, ready-to-cook, young chickens primarily resulted from the continued decline in condemnations. Most condemnations are post-mortem and in 1975 these amounted to 167 million pounds (New York dressed weight), compared with 219 million pounds in 1974. For 1975, post mortem-condemnations were 1.7 percent of the quantity inspected, down from 2.2 percent in 1974 and 3.9 percent in 1970.

1976 Output Up Sharply

Broiler production in 1976 has been running well above a year earlier. Through January 28 the number of broilers inspected was 8 percent above a year earlier and the average marketing weight was up nearly 2 percent to record levels. Weekly placements in 21 commercial broiler States, for February marketings slowed, but were still up around 7 percent from last year (table 6). Placements for March marketings increased and were up around a tenth. Broiler meat output during January-March is expected to average around 10 percent above the first quarter of 1975.

The favorable relationship between feed prices and broiler market prices during the past 3 quarters likely will boost broiler production well above a year ago in coming months. Broiler meat output is expected to remain around a tenth higher through midyear. Continued production gains are likely this summer, although the margin over a year ago probably will narrow because of the sharp increase in output in the second half of 1975.

Larger Hatchery Supply Flock

The broiler hatchery supply flock dropped to its lowest level in several years in September 1975, down 15 percent from September 1974 on the basis of pullet chick placement data. However, the flock gained last fall and will continue to increase in early 1976. Placements in July-December 1975 were up almost 10 percent. Cumulative placements indicate the flock will exceed year-earlier levels in April and be up 8 percent by July. This would still be slightly below July 1973 and 1974. The flock size is based on layers remaining in the flocks for 8 months. However, industry sources indicate that many more layers are being held in the flock for 9-10 months of lay than in recent years. In addition the number of eggs set per estimated breeder hen has been trending upward. For example, on the average there were 3.47 eggs per layer placed in incubators each week in 1973. This dropped to 3.28 eggs in 1974 when hatchery activity was curtailed but increased to around 3.62 eggs per layer in 1975. During 1975 the ratio ranged from a low of 3.19 in January to a high of 3.90 in November. Part of the increase in eggs set per breeder hen may be because of holding layers for a longer lay period. However, the hatchery supply flock will be large enough to sustain a moderate increase in broiler production throughout 1976.

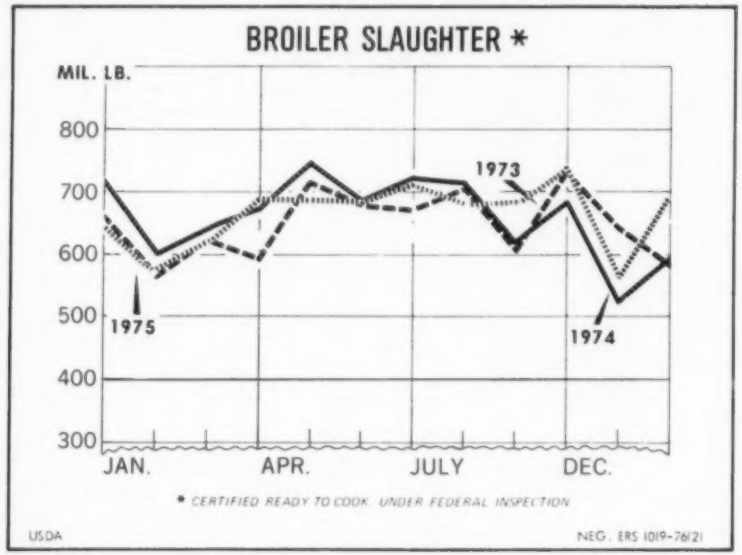
Broiler Prices Strong

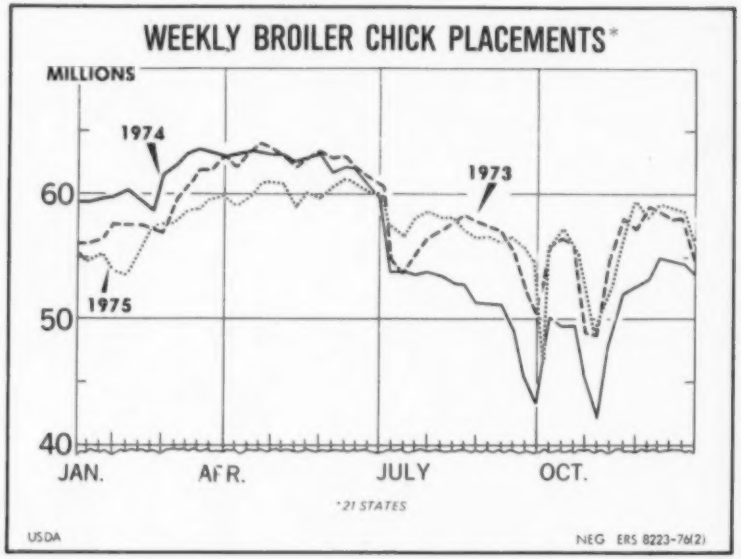
Broiler prices during most of 1975 were at their highest levels in recent history. Prices in March, April, and August did lag the very high levels of 1973, but for all of 1975 averaged well above other recent years. Wholesale broiler prices in nine-cities averaged 45.1 cents a pound in 1975, up nearly 7 cents from 1974 and 3 cents above the high 1973 prices. Prices dropped sharply in late 1975 as a result of the usual seasonal easing in demand and a sharp increase in broiler meat output. Despite sharply larger broiler supplies, prices strengthened in early 1976 and averaged 42.2 cents a pound during January. This was up about a cent from both the previous month and a year earlier. Prices are expected to continue strong through the spring and summer, but prices next summer are not

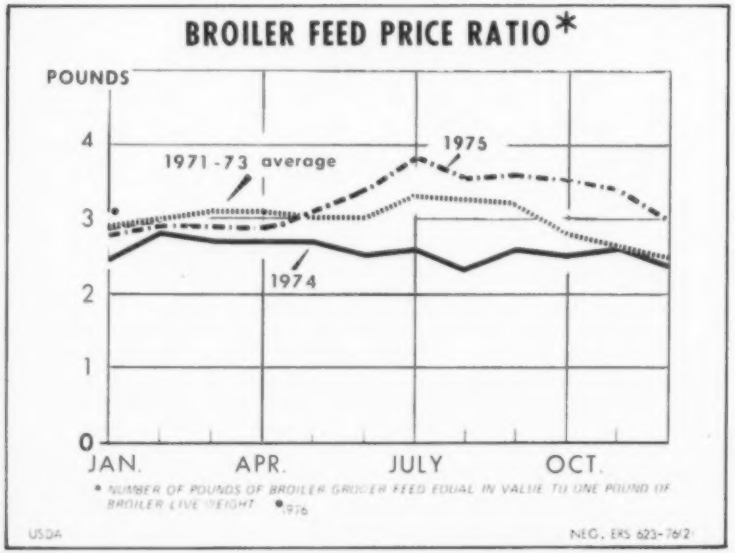
Table G—Broiler: Eggs set and broiler chicks placed weekly in 21 commercial broiler producing States, 1974-76.

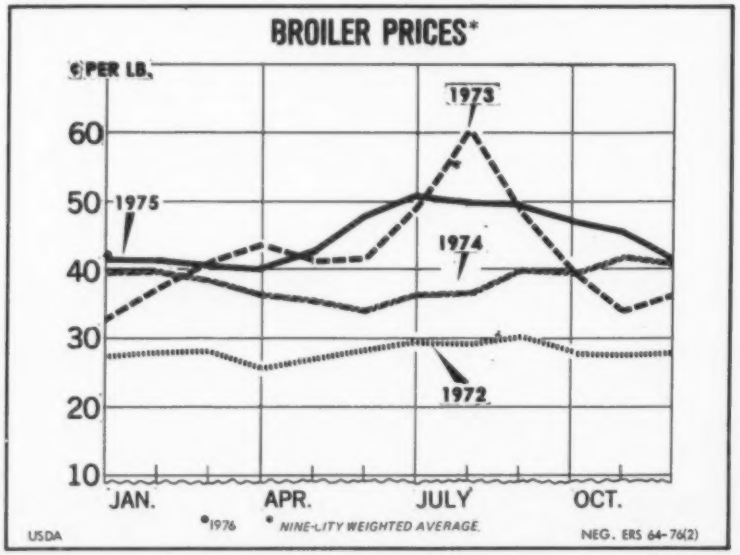
Week ending Saturday		Eggs set			Percent of previous year			Chicks placed			Percent of previous year		
		1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976
		Thousand	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
December[1]	6 ..	72,644	65,349	67,850	102	90	104	58,991	54,797	59,324	102	93	108
	13 ..	67,519	66,617	72,140	101	99	108	58,826	54,637	59,177	102	93	108
	20 ..	73,067	66,345	72,641	105	91	109	58,062	54,502	58,969	102	94	108
	27 ..	73,524	66,481	72,857	105	90	110	58,683	53,721	56,165	103	92	105
	3 ..	73,099	65,412	73,272	105	89	112	54,650	55,246	59,000	104	101	107
January	10 ..	73,069	64,061	73,568	103	87	115	59,653	54,877	59,870	106	92	109
	17 ..	74,225	66,458	74,233	105	90	112	59,375	55,141	59,601	106	93	108
	24 ..	72,931	67,946	74,761	102	93	110	59,679	53,996	60,390	104	90	112
	31 ..	71,875	69,403	73,808	101	97	106	59,851	53,260	60,798	104	89	114
February	7 ..	75,227	69,809	75,865	106	93	109	60,371	55,061	61,092	105	91	111
	14 ..	76,073	70,891	78,086	104	93	110	59,785	57,083	61,847	104	95	108
	21 ..	77,347	71,150		103	92		58,824	57,661		103	98	
	28 ..	77,871	71,648		102	92		61,760	57,796		109	94	
March	6 ..	77,847	71,656		102	92		62,475	58,678		105	94	
	13 ..	76,807	71,171		100	93		63,459	58,915		106	93	
	20 ..	76,363	72,538		100	95		63,752	59,670		103	94	
	27 ..	77,430	73,300		99	95		63,778	59,891		103	94	
	3 ..	78,197	73,610		99	94		63,156	59,170		101	94	
April	10 ..	77,019	72,917		98	95		62,386	59,775		100	96	
	17 ..	77,565	71,398		99	92		62,919	60,763		99	97	
	24 ..	76,689	72,956		100	95		63,468	60,892		99	96	
	1 ..	77,473	73,542		99	95		63,259	60,699		99	96	
May	8 ..	77,327	73,421		99	95		63,481	59,055		101	93	
	15 ..	75,665	73,624		100	97		62,620	60,170		101	96	
	22 ..	76,378	73,830		98	97		62,944	59,828		100	95	
	29 ..	76,499	74,209		98	97		63,421	60,530		100	95	
June	5 ..	75,166	72,476		97	96		61,810	61,083		98	99	
	12 ..	74,426	70,128		98	94		62,096	60,500		99	97	
	19 ..	67,307	69,727		96	104		62,001	60,207		100	97	
	26 ..	67,271	71,687		100	107		60,433	60,237		98	100	
	3 ..	67,748	72,142		98	106		59,754	57,481		98	96	
July	10 ..	67,355	71,305		95	106		53,911	56,862		99	105	
	17 ..	66,700	71,290		93	107		53,813	58,277		100	108	
	24 ..	65,703	69,866		90	106		53,789	58,603		98	109	
	31 ..	65,229	69,706		90	107		53,903	58,084		95	108	
August	7 ..	64,361	69,586		89	108		53,607	58,056		94	108	
	14 ..	63,529	68,490		89	108		52,981	57,349		91	108	
	21 ..	62,824	69,305		88	110		52,641	56,650		90	108	
	28 ..	63,017	68,831		88	109		51,640	56,746		89	110	
September	4 ..	61,194	66,213		92	108		51,417	56,029		90	109	
	11 ..	56,226	58,738		87	104		51,427	56,592		90	110	
	18 ..	54,500	68,023		78	125		51,361	55,978		91	111	
	25 ..	61,831	69,704		87	113		49,116	54,027		93	110	
	2 ..	60,193	66,718		87	111		45,597	46,502		90	102	
October	,9 ..	56,331	59,539		91	106		43,450	55,900		78	128	
	16 ..	51,818	63,577		85	123		50,040	57,292		88	114	
	23 ..	58,987	69,346		86	118		49,688	55,231		89	111	
	30 ..	63,252	72,025		87	114		45,597	48,608		93	107	
November	6 ..	64,159	70,211		76	109		42,106	52,051		86	124	
	13 ..	64,422	72,302		89	112		48,019	56,997		87	119	
	20 ..	66,265	71,753		91	108		52,079	59,497		90	114	
	27 ..	66,312	71,943		92	108		52,733	58,100		92	110	
Total		3,616,396	3,624,373		96	100		2,954,647	2,967,753		98	100	

[1] Preceding year.


BROILER SLAUGHTER *
MIL. LB.
800
700
600
500
400
300
1973
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
DEC.
* CERTIFIED READY TO COOK, UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
USDA
NEG. ERS 1019-76(2)


WEEKLY BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS*
MILLIONS
60
50
40
1974
1973
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*21 STATES
USDA
NEG. ERS 8223-76(2)


BROILER FEED PRICE RATIO*
POUNDS
4
3
2
1
0
1971-73 average
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NUMBER OF POUNDS OF BROILER GROWER FEED EQUAL IN VALUE TO ONE POUND OF BROILER LIVE WEIGHT. •1976
USDA
NEG. ERS 623-76(2)


BROILER PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
60
50
40
30
20
10
1973
1975
1974
1972
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
•1976
* NINE-CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE.
USDA
NEG. ERS 64-76(2)

Broiler prices

Calendar quarters	Liveweight		9-city	
	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Cents per pound			
I	22.4	24.2	39.3	41.2
II	20.2	25.1	35.3	43.7
III	21.4	29.6	37.7	50.3
IV	23.0	26.7	40.7	45.1
Annual	21.7	26.4	38.2	45.1

expected to match last years 50.3 cents. Prices through mid-1976 likely will average in the low to mid 40's.

Although supplies of broiler meat will be record large in coming months, broiler prices will be bolstered by increased consumer disposable incomes, lower pork supplies through midyear, and relatively high red meat prices throughout 1976. However, there probably will not be the runup in pork prices this spring and summer as happened in 1975.

Lower Per Capita Consumption in 1975

Based on federally inspected slaughter (total U.S. production will not be reported until April), consumption of young chicken (primarily broilers) in 1975 totaled about 37.2 pounds per person, about a third of a pound below 1974's use. All of the decline occurred in the first half when use was down about a pound per person. Second half consumption was around 0.7 pound above a year earlier. The sharp increase in output expected this year may push January-June per capita consumption up more than a pound from 1975's. This would be record large consumption.

USDA Purchase

Purchases of chicken by USDA for the Nation's school lunch program in calendar 1975 totaled 30.3 million pounds of fresh frozen cut-up, compared with 47.9 million in 1974 and 288,000 pounds of fully cooked, fried, frozen cut-up chicken, the same as in 1974. The commodity cost of 1975 purchases totaled $16 million, well below the $22.8 million cost in 1974. Purchases this year through February 3 totaled 9.4 million pounds at a cost of $4.6 million. In recent years USDA purchases for the school lunch programs have ended by the end of March.

1975 Exports Large

Exports of young chicken during 1975 were the largest of any year since the formation of the European Community in 1962. In 1975, exports of whole young chicken and chicken parts totaled nearly 138 million pounds (ready-to-cook weight), 19 percent above 1974 and the largest export total since the 145 million pounds in 1962. In addition, shipments to U.S. territories totaled 116 million pounds in 1975, up 9 percent from 1974. More than 95 percent of the total shipments went to Puerto Rico in 1975.

TURKEYS

Fewer Turkeys Raised in 1975

Producers raised 5 percent fewer turkeys in 1975 than in 1974. There were 124.3 million turkeys raised in the U.S. last year, compared with 131.3 million in 1974. Heavy breed turkeys raised were down 6 percent to 109.3 million while light breeds raised declined 2 percent to 15 million. The decline in the number of turkeys raised and lighter marketing weights resulted in lower turkey meat output in 1975.

Turkey meat output in federally inspected plants during 1975 declined nearly 7 percent from 1974's record output to 1,716 million pounds, ready-to-cook weight. The number of birds inspected for slaughter was down 6 percent to 119.4 million while the average liveweight dropped a little more than 1 percent to 18.1 pounds. Output was down about a fifth during the first half of 1975, but gained in the second half and exceeded year-earlier levels late in 1975.

Turkey slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	15.1	12.3	18.3	17.1	216.1	166.4
II	26.6	21.8	16.8	16.7	353.1	289.0
III	47.0	44.0	18.0	17.9	670.4	625.5
IV	38.0	41.4	19.8	19.4	596.2	635.2
Annual	126.8	119.4	18.4	18.1	1,835.8	1,716.1

Producers Plan Expansion for 1976

In late 1975, turkey growers in 20 major producing States planned to raise 6 percent more turkeys in 1976 than in 1975. They planned to raise 120 million turkeys in these 20 States, 112 million heavy breeds and 15 million light breeds, an increase of 6 and 5 percent, respectively, over the previous year. Producers likely will alter their plans during the year, but in the past producers

Table 7—Turkey breeder hens on hand January 1, and poults hatched per hen, 1965-75

Year	Turkey breeder hens on farms January[1]	Poults hatched					
		Total			Per breeder hen on hand January 1		
		September through February	March through August	September through August	September through February	March through August	September through August[2]
	Thousands	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*
1965	3,555	18,793	95,853	114,646	5.3	27.0	32.2
1966	3,920	25,448	102,022	127,470	6.5	26.0	32.5
1967	4,148	34,422	104,973	139,395	8.3	25.3	33.6
1968	3,392	25,082	90,671	115,753	7.4	26.7	34.1
1969	3,290	25,417	89,600	115,017	7.7	27.2	35.0
1970	3,398	29,027	95,806	124,833	8.5	28.2	36.7
1971	3,389	34,845	92,809	127,654	10.3	27.4	37.7
1972	3,370	37,474	101,516	138,990	11.1	30.1	41.2
1973	3,303	41,054	101,196	142,250	12.4	30.6	43.1
1974	3,553	46,401	96,263	142,664	13.1	27.1	40.2
1975	2,943	39,786	95,083	134,869	13.5	32.3	45.8

[1] Beginning December 1970, number on hand December 1 of previous year. [2] Detail may not add exactly due to rounding.

early intentions have been a good indicator. For 1975, producers in these 20 States planned to raise 6 percent fewer turkeys and the actual number raised was a little more than 5 percent below 1974.

Turkey breeder hens on farms in 26 States on December 1, 1975, were up a little more than 3 percent from December 1, 1974 to a little over 3 million birds. Heavy breed hens at 2.6 million were up 1 percent, but light breed hens were up 22 percent to 442,000 (table 7).

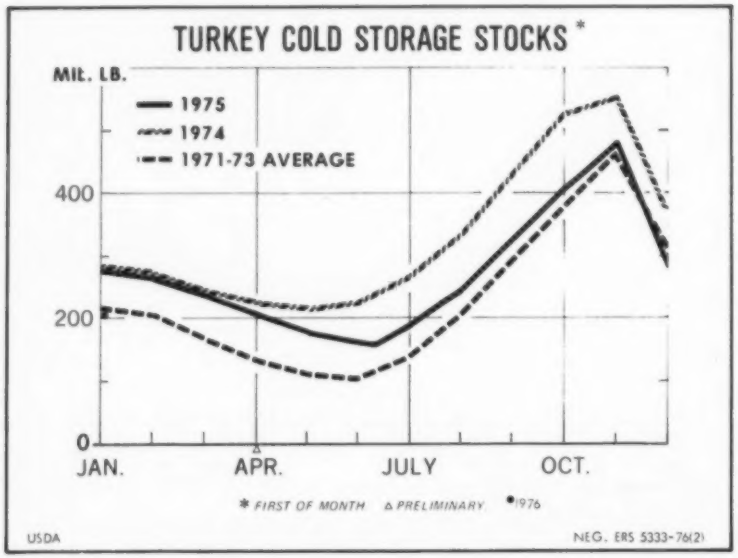
Output of turkey meat during the seasonally light first half of 1976 will be substantially above a year earlier. Poult production during September-January, largely for marketing during the first half of 1976, was 18 percent above a year earlier. (tables 8 and 9). Also, turkey eggs in incubators on February 1 were up 8 percent. Thus, output of turkey meat during January-June this year likely will be 15-20 percent above the first half of 1975.

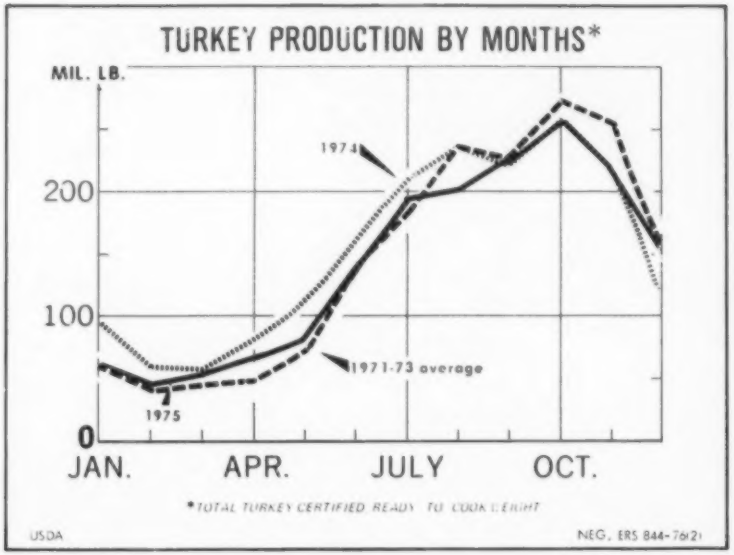
Turkey output in the second half of this year will increase seasonally, but the increase over 1976 levels will narrow. In recent years, first half output has accounted for only 25-30 percent of the year's total. Sharp gains in early 1976 production may result in first half production this year accounting for around 30 percent of the year's total.

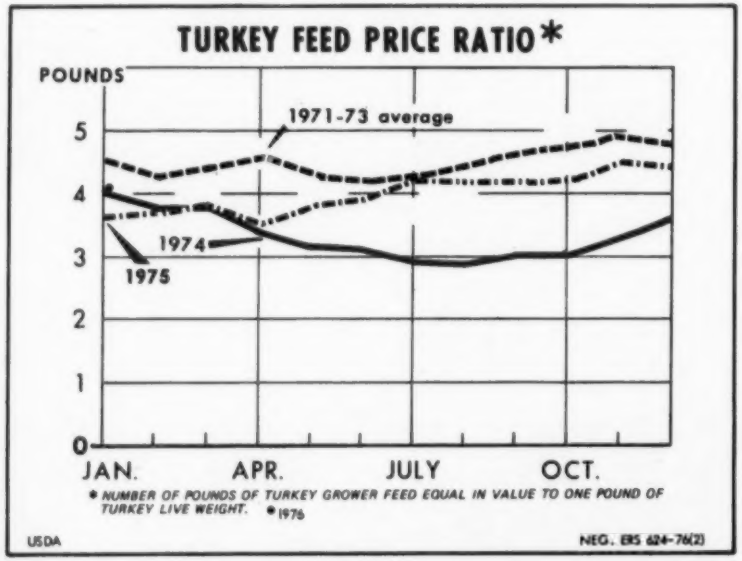
Table 8—Turkey hatchery operations, United States and 9 States reporting weekly, 1974-76

Month	United States				Period[2]	9-States[1]					
	Hatch		Change from year earlier			Hatch			Egg settings advanced 4 weeks		
	1974-1975	1975-1976	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month		1974-1975	1975-1976	Change from year earlier	1974-1975	1975-1976	Change from year earlier
September	3,170	4,396	39	30	Aug. 31-Sept. 27	2,429	3,570	47	4,214	5,851	39
October	4,193	4,482	7	2	Sept. 28-Nov. 1	4,041	4,310	7	6,311	6,444	2
November	4,987	5,499	10	6	Nov. 2-Nov. 29	3,959	4,252	7	5,798	6,083	5
December	6,523	7,794	19	14	Nov. 30-Jan. 3	6,213	7,543	21	9,138	10,750	18
January	8,716	10,513	21	20	Jan. 4-Jan. 31	6,705	7,858	17	10,045	11,105	11
February	12,197			21	Feb. 1-Feb. 28				13,773	14,061	2
March	16,294				Feb. 29-Apr. 3						
April	18,291				Apr. 4-May 1						
May	19,272				May 2-May 29						
June	17,652				May 30-July 3						
July	14,340				July 4-July 31						
August	8,640				Aug. 1-Aug. 28						

[1] California, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconnsin. [2] Weeks of 1975-76 and corresponding weeks of 1974-75.


TURKEY COLD STORAGE STOCKS *
MIL. LB.
1975
1974
1971-73 AVERAGE
400
200
0
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* FIRST OF MONTH △ PRELIMINARY •1976
USDA
NEG. ERS 5333-76(2)


TURKEY PRODUCTION BY MONTHS*
MIL. LB.
1974
200
100
1971-73 average
1975
0
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*TOTAL TURKEY CERTIFIED READY TO COOK WEIGHT
USDA
NEG. ERS 844-76(2)


TURKEY FEED PRICE RATIO*
POUNDS
1971-73 average
5
4
3
2
1
0
1974
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* NUMBER OF POUNDS OF TURKEY GROWER FEED EQUAL IN VALUE TO ONE POUND OF TURKEY LIVE WEIGHT. •1976
USDA
NEG. ERS 624-76(2)

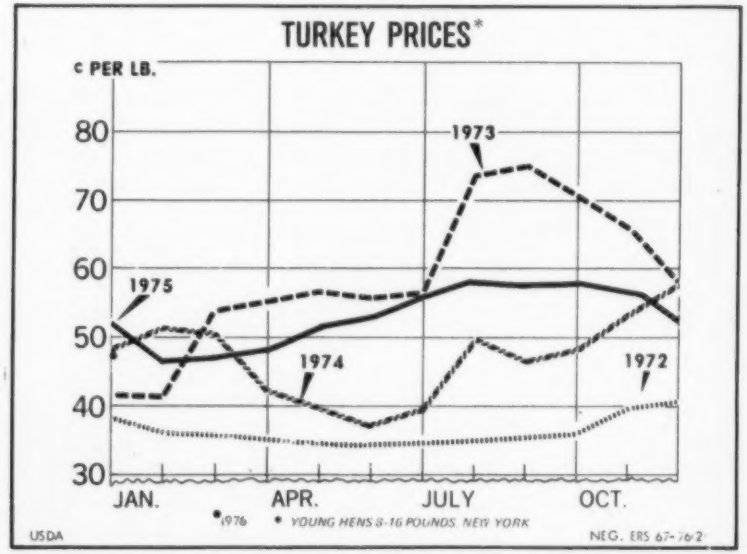

TURKEY PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
80
70
60
50
40
30
1973
1975
1974
1972
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
•1976 * YOUNG HENS 8-16 POUNDS, NEW YORK
USDA
NEG. ERS 67-76(2)

Table 9—Turkeys: Monthly hatchings by breed type, advanced to indicate prospective month of marketing, 1974-76

Month of marketing	Light breed advanced 4 months			Heavy breeds						All turkey: Sum of preceding columns*		
				Hens advanced 5 months			Toms advanced 6 months					
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976
	Million	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*
January	1.2	0.5	0.8	2.9	2.6	3.7	6.1	5.9	6.4	10.2	9.1	10.9
February	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.8	2.9	2.6	3.7	5.6	5.1	6.5
March	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.8	4.3	4.1	4.9
April	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.8	2.1	1.4	1.5	1.7	4.9	4.6	5.4
May	1.3	1.2	1.8	3.3	2.6	3.1	1.9	1.8	2.1	6.5	5.7	7.0
June	1.2	1.4		4.8	3.7	4.4	3.3	2.6	3.1	9.2	7.8	
July	1.5	1.5		6.4	5.4		4.8	3.7	4.4	12.7	10.6	
August	1.5	1.6		9.0	7.4		6.4	5.4		16.8	14.4	
September	1.4	1.6		9.6	8.6		9.0	7.4		19.9	17.6	
October	1.4	1.4		9.3	8.9		9.6	8.6		20.3	18.9	
November	1.1	1.5		7.9	8.1		9.3	8.9		18.3	18.5	
December	0.8	1.3		5.9	6.4		7.9	8.1		14.6	15.8	

*Detail may not add exactly to totals due to rounding.

Turkey Stocks Decline

Although turkey production through mid-1976 will be substantially larger, total turkey meat supplies during January-June may not be much different from 1975. Cold storage turkey stocks were reduced about 80 million pounds during 1975 to 195 million pounds on January 1, 1976 (table 10). This was the smallest January 1 stocks total since 1970.

Turkey Prices Decline

Turkey prices have trended down since peaking late in October. New York wholesale prices for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys averaged 58 cents a pound last October, about 10 cents above a year earlier. Prices dropped and in January averaged about 47 cents a pound, 5 cents below January 1975. Turkey prices probably have about reached their low and will begin to strengthen in coming weeks and likely will average near year-earlier levels for the first half of 1976. Turkey prices will be under downward pressures through much of 1976 as production continues well above a year ago.

Turkey prices

Calendar quarters	Liveweight		New York wholesale			
			Young hens 8-16 pounds		Young toms 14-20 pounds	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	Cents per pound					
I	33.2	31.0	50.2	48.6	47.7	46.3
II	25.3	30.6	39.8	51.1	37.4	46.6
III	25.8	35.1	45.4	57.1	40.9	55.3
IV	30.7	36.2	53.3	56.0	49.7	56.3
Annual	28.8	33.2	47.2	53.2	43.9	51.8

Lower Consumption in 1975

Consumption of turkey meat during 1975 declined about 0.4 pound to an estimated 8.4 pounds per person. Consumption did not drop as much as production because of an 80-million-pound drawdown in cold storage stocks. Consumption will gain in 1976, but may not get back to the 8.8 pounds of 1974. The record was in 1972 when consumption totaled 9 pounds per person.

Larger Exports and Military Use in 1975

Exports in 1975 of whole turkeys and turkey parts (excluding livers) at 47 million pounds gained 8 million pounds from 1974. All of the increase was in the second half of the year when exports increased 66 percent from the prior year. First half 1975 export were down more than a fifth. Turkey parts accounted for 67 percent of total, compared with 78 percent in 1974.

Military purchases, after declining in each year since 1968, increased in 1975. Purchases for all of 1975 totaled 31.4 million pounds, ready-to-cook, almost 3 million pounds above 1974.

USDA Purchases of Turkey in 1975 Down

USDA purchased 19.4 million pounds of ready-to-cook whole turkey at a total cost of $11.1 million. All of the purchases were made during August-October. This was well below the 51.4 million pounds purchased in 1974.

Table 10–Cold storage holdings of high protein foods, February 1, 1976 with comparisons

Item	Unit	January 1		February 1	
		1975	1976	1975	1976
		Thousands	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*
Total eggs[1]	Case	1,408	941	1,354	845
Shell	do.	36	23	32	13
Frozen	Pound	54,189	36,265	52,220	32,862
Total poultry	do.	456,209	313,612	437,835	304,088
Total chicken	do.	175,015	114,654	165,405	112,072
Broilers, fryers and roasters	do.	37,246	22,312	31,106	21,323
Hens	do.	54,026	39,220	55,700	34,734
Other frozen chicken	do.	83,743	53,122	78,599	56,015
Total turkey	do.	275,027	195,177	267,107	188,748
Whole	do.	210,091	146,762	204,665	138,957
Other	do.	64,936	48,415	62,442	49,791
Ducks	do.	6,167	3,781	5,323	3,268
All red meats[2]	do.	803,191	675,284	809,431	670,556
Beef	do.	401,859	349,754	407,132	352,148
Frozen pork	do.	293,729	233,723	279,239	216,356
Pork in cooler	do.	12,934	15,487	15,148	19,662
Total cheese	do.	493,955	367,788	485,918	362,405

[1] Frozen eggs converted on basis of 39.5 pounds to the case. [2] Includes other meat and meat products.

Table 11–Estimated costs and returns for market eggs[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs all eggs		Wholesale, cartoned Grade A large eggs		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 5]	14 metro areas price[2]	
	Cents per dozen	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*
1972					
I	16.2	27.8	42.2	38.2	-4.0
II	17.0	28.6	42.9	35.5	-7.4
III	17.5	29.1	43.4	41.4	-2.1
IV	18.6	30.2	44.6	47.1	2.5
Annual average[2]	17.3	28.9	43.3	40.5	-2.8
1973					
I	23.7	36.2	52.6	56.7	4.1
II	27.0	39.5	55.9	56.4	0.5
III	37.6	50.1	66.5	73.0	6.5
IV	28.7	41.2	57.6	71.3	13.7
Annual average[2]	29.2	41.7	58.1	64.3	6.2
1974					
I	31.2	45.6	63.6	72.3	8.6
II	27.5	41.9	59.9	52.1	-7.8
III	31.4	45.8	63.8	59.9	-3.9
IV	34.1	48.5	66.6	67.8	1.2
Annual average[2]	31.0	45.4	63.5	63.0	-0.4
1975[4]					
I	30.8	45.2	63.2	65.2	1.8
II	28.3	42.7	60.7	55.1	-5.6
III	29.3	43.7	61.7	61.9	0.2
IV	27.8	42.2	60.2	69.0	8.9
Annual average[2]	29.0	43.4	61.5	62.9	1.4

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly egg production less estimated eggs used for hatching. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for Grade A large eggs. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 12—Estimated costs and returns for broilers[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[3]	Total costs[2 3]	9-city weighted average price[2]	
	Cents per pound	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
1972					
I	8.3	13.6	27.2	27.8	0.6
II	8.8	14.2	28.0	27.2	-0.7
III	9.2	14.6	28.5	29.6	1.1
IV	9.7	15.0	29.2	28.0	-1.2
Annual Average[3]	9.0	14.3	28.2	28.2	-0.1
1973					
I	12.2	18.0	34.0	37.0	3.0
II	14.2	20.1	36.9	42.2	5.4
III	21.2	27.0	46.5	52.8	6.3
IV	17.6	23.4	41.5	37.2	-4.3
Annual average[3]	16.4	22.2	39.8	42.4	2.6
1974					
I	16.1	22.3	40.5	39.3	-1.2
II	15.2	21.3	39.2	35.3	-3.9
III	14.5	20.7	38.3	37.6	-0.7
IV	17.7	23.8	42.6	40.4	-2.3
Annual average[3]	15.8	22.0	40.1	38.0	-2.0
1975[4]					
I	16.4	22.6	40.9	41.2	0.3
II	14.5	20.7	38.3	43.7	5.3
III	14.6	20.7	38.4	50.3	11.9
IV	15.0	21.1	38.9	45.1	6.2
Annual average[3]	15.1	21.2	39.1	45.2	6.1

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly broiler slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for ready-to-cook broilers. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 13—Estimated costs and returns for turkeys[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	New York young hen price[2]	
	Cents per pound	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
1972					
I	11.9	18.9	32.2	36.9	4.7
II	12.9	19.9	33.3	34.8	1.4
III	13.5	20.5	34.1	35.3	1.2
IV	14.1	21.1	34.9	38.5	3.7
Annual average[2]	13.5	20.5	34.1	36.6	2.5
1973					
I	15.4	22.9	37.8	45.1	7.3
	19.8	27.3	43.3	55.9	12.6
II	27.0	34.5	52.3	69.2	16.9
IV	28.2	35.7	53.8	67.2	13.4
Annual average[2]	25.6	33.1	50.6	64.5	13.9
1974					
I	22.1	30.3	48.4	49.9	1.6
II	23.6	31.8	50.2	39.2	-11.0
III	19.9	28.1	45.6	45.6	-0.1
IV	24.8	33.0	51.7	52.1	0.4
Annual average[2]	22.5	30.7	48.8	47.0	-1.8
1975[4]					
I	25.6	33.8	52.8	48.9	-3.9
II	21.6	29.8	47.7	51.7	4.0
III	21.3	29.5	47.4	57.1	9.7
IV	22.2	30.4	48.5	56.5	8.0
Annual average[2]	22.1	30.3	48.4	55.1	6.8

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly turkey slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for heavy young turkey hens. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 14--Chickens: Number on Farms by classes and by regions, December 1, 1970-75

Year	North Atlantic	E. North Central	W. North Central	South Atlantic	South Central	Western	Alaska and Hawaii	United States
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*
				HENS ONE YEAR OLD OR OLDER				
1970	17,659	17,410	15,949	26,607	26,267	30,118	533	134,543
1971	18,101	18,292	16,333	27,756	26,003	31,132	540	138,157
1972	18,108	17,428	16,487	28,725	24,476	26,235	550	132,206
1973	18,243	15,882	15,815	25,649	24,062	27,372	465	127,488
1974	15,566	14,511	12,901	26,506	21,593	29,489	639	121,205
1975	18,567	14,320	13,146	23,949	20,728	30,280	636	121,626
				PULLETS OF LAYING AGE				
1970	26,298	26,637	26,987	41,095	41,778	26,076	431	189,302
1971	26,168	26,124	24,810	40,448	40,361	24,546	439	182,896
1972	25,118	25,015	21,453	36,291	39,249	22,278	436	169,840
1973	23,738	23,365	21,291	39,464	37,046	23,523	547	168,974
1974	24,874	23,518	21,379	34,423	36,366	22,837	427	163,824
1975	20,822	23,354	20,678	36,033	35,975	20,924	343	158,129
				TOTAL HENS AND PULLETS OF LAYING AGE				
1970	43,957	44,047	42,936	67,702	68,045	56,194	964	323,845
1971	44,269	44,416	41,143	68,204	66,364	55,678	979	321,053
1972	43,306	42,443	38,057	65,016	63,725	48,513	986	302,046
1973	41,981	39,247	37,106	65,113	61,108	50,895	1,012	296,462
1974	40,440	38,029	34,280	60,929	57,959	52,326	1,066	285,029
1975	39,389	37,674	33,824	59,982	56,703	51,204	979	279,755
				PULLETS 3 MONTHS OLD AND OLDER NOT OF LAYING AGE				
1970	5,147	6,380	5,374	12,398	12,194	8,618	181	50,292
1971	5,674	6,313	5,584	12,729	12,905	7,478	191	50,874
1972	5,346	5,763	4,784	12,921	12,624	7,201	195	48,834
1973	6,629	6,106	5,191	13,224	13,594	7,711	138	52,593
1974	5,596	6,149	5,127	11,558	10,830	7,303	155	46,718
1975	5,981	5,808	4,881	13,365	10,972	6,873	127	48,007
				PULLETS UNDER 3 MONTHS OLD				
1970	4,935	6,368	4,385	14,664	12,587	9,870	260	53,069
1971	5,365	6,269	3,833	12,062	12,350	7,137	270	47,286
1972	5,301	5,650	4,162	12,507	12,330	9,015	185	49,155
1973	6,335	6,599	5,039	15,857	13,788	9,507	182	57,307
1974	6,272	5,865	4,067	12,071	11,045	6,853	130	46,303
1975	5,635	6,005	4,221	12,051	11,309	6,694	162	46,077
				OTHER CHICKENS				
1970	564	391	598	2,157	2,480	506	1	6,697
1971	549	399	565	2,163	2,289	397	1	6,363
1972	560	340	529	2,113	2,349	314	1	6,206
1973	559	348	457	2,070	2,390	316	1	6,141
1974	492	299	452	1,894	1,980	411	1	5,529
1975	408	306	406	1,811	2,073	348	1	5,353
				TOTAL ALL CHICKENS[1]				
1970	54,603	57,186	53,293	96,921	95,306	75,188	1,406	433,903
1971	55,857	57,397	51,125	95,158	93,908	70,690	1,441	425,576
1972	54,518	54,196	47,532	92,557	91,028	65,043	1,367	406,241
1973	55,504	52,300	47,793	96,264	90,880	68,429	1,333	412,503
1974	52,800	50,342	43,926	86,452	81,814	66,893	1,352	383,579
1975	51,413	49,793	43,332	87,209	81,057	65,119	1,269	379,192

[1] Excluding commercial broilers.

Table 15—Prices and price spreads for frying chickens, 1973-1975[1]

Item	Annual average 1973	Annual average 1974	Annual average 1975	October 1974	November 1974	December 1974	October 1975	November 1975	December 1975
	Cents per pound	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
10-City average prices									
Farm price	33.9	30.0	35.7	30.0	32.3	32.9	38.5	38.0	35.8
Price to retailer	[2]47.0	42.3	49.4	42.2	44.1	46.4	52.4	51.7	48.7
Retail price	60.8	57.0	64.4	57.4	59.5	60.8	68.0	68.3	66.3
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	26.9	27.0	28.7	27.4	27.2	27.9	29.5	30.3	30.5
Farm to retailer	13.1	12.3	13.7	12.2	11.8	13.5	13.9	13.7	12.9
Retail	13.8	14.7	15.0	15.2	15.4	14.4	15.6	15.6	17.6
New York prices									
Farm price	34.6	30.1	36.8	31.3	32.4	32.7	39.5	39.1	36.8
Price to retailer	45.9	41.1	48.5	43.0	43.5	47.0	50.5	50.5	51.0
Retail price	63.3	60.6	68.1	64.2	62.7	65.4	71.2	70.8	72.5
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	28.7	30.5	31.3	32.9	30.3	32.7	31.7	31.7	35.7
Farm to retailer	11.3	11.0	11.7	11.7	11.1	14.3	11.0	11.4	14.2
Retail	17.4	19.5	19.6	21.2	19.2	18.4	20.7	20.3	21.5
Boston prices									
Farm price	35.0	30.4	37.4	31.7	32.5	33.2	39.8	39.5	37.5
Price to retailer	45.1	40.6	48.0	40.5	42.5	44.0	51.5	51.0	46.8
Retail price	63.3	62.0	70.4	64.2	66.4	64.3	74.2	77.1	71.4
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	28.3	31.6	33.0	32.5	33.9	31.1	34.4	37.6	33.9
Farm to retailer	10.1	10.2	10.6	8.8	10.0	10.8	11.7	11.5	9.3
Retail	18.2	21.4	22.4	23.7	23.9	20.3	22.7	26.1	24.6
Chicago prices									
Farm price	33.0	28.7	34.9	27.6	30.6	33.7	37.4	37.7	34.6
Price to retailer	45.3	40.9	48.2	41.5	42.5	45.0	51.0	49.3	48.0
Retail price	59.7	55.7	63.8	54.6	58.4	60.9	67.2	65.7	66.0
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	26.7	27.0	28.9	27.0	27.8	27.2	29.8	28.0	31.4
Farm to retailer	12.3	12.2	13.3	13.9	11.9	11.3	13.6	11.6	13.4
Retail	14.3	14.8	15.6	13.1	15.9	15.9	16.2	16.4	18.0
St. Louis prices									
Farm price	33.6	29.6	35.2	28.3	31.5	34.3	37.7	37.9	35.1
Price to retailer	47.1	42.7	49.4	42.0	43.5	46.5	50.7	51.0	48.3
Retail price	61.0	58.1	64.9	56.7	61.2	64.1	67.5	68.7	64.7
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	27.4	28.5	29.7	28.4	29.7	29.8	29.8	30.8	29.6
Farm to retailer	13.5	13.1	14.2	13.7	12.0	12.2	13.0	13.1	13.2
Retail	14.0	15.4	15.5	14.7	17.7	17.6	16.8	17.7	16.4
San Francisco prices									
Farm price	33.8	32.1	35.1	31.6	34.3	32.9	37.1	35.3	35.8
Price to retailer	52.1	47.7	54.9	48.0	49.5	51.0	56.5	58.5	55.5
Retail price	65.8	60.2	65.6	59.8	59.5	63.8	70.8	71.0	65.8
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	32.0	28.1	30.5	28.2	25.2	30.9	33.7	35.7	30.0
Farm to retailer	18.3	15.6	19.8	16.4	15.2	18.1	19.4	23.2	19.7
Retail	13.7	12.5	10.7	11.8	10.0	12.8	14.3	12.5	10.3
Atlanta prices									
Farm price	32.9	28.8	34.6	28.0	30.8	33.4	37.3	37.4	34.1
Price to retailer	NA	40.1	46.0	39.5	42.0	43.5	48.5	48.8	46.3
Retail price	58.8	55.6	60.3	58.6	61.3	57.4	63.9	67.4	63.7
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	25.9	26.8	25.7	30.6	30.5	24.0	26.6	30.0	29.6
Farm to retailer	NA	11.3	11.4	11.5	11.2	10.1	11.2	11.4	12.2
Retail	NA	15.5	14.3	19.1	19.3	13.9	15.4	18.6	17.4

[1] Selected cities and 10-city average. [2] 9-city average.

Table 16—Prices and price spreads for large eggs, 1973-75[1]

Item	Annual average 1973	Annual average 1974	Annual average 1975	October 1974	November 1974	December 1974	October 1975	November 1975	December 1975
	Cents per dozen	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*
10-City average prices									
Farm price	52.4	51.8	49.4	56.6	52.9	56.5	48.3	49.9	58.1
Price to retailer	67.0	65.6	64.9	70.8	67.8	71.1	64.2	65.3	73.5
Retail price	78.4	78.1	77.1	83.9	80.6	84.3	77.7	78.6	85.9
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	26.0	26.3	17.7	27.3	27.7	27.8	29.4	28.7	27.8
Farm to retailer	14.6	13.8	15.5	14.2	14.9	14.6	15.9	15.4	15.4
Retail	11.4	12.5	12.2	13.1	12.8	13.2	13.5	13.3	12.4
New York Prices									
Farm Price	51.5	50.4	47.4	54.8	51.7	54.5	46.6	47.6	56.7
Price to retailer	64.8	64.6	63.5	70.8	65.8	71.7	63.0	64.0	72.3
Retail price	83.2	85.3	84.6	92.1	87.1	92.1	86.1	85.0	94.2
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	31.7	34.9	37.2	37.3	35.4	37.6	39.5	37.4	37.5
Farm to retailer	13.3	14.2	16.1	16.0	14.1	17.2	16.4	16.4	15.6
Retail	18.4	20.7	21.1	21.3	21.3	20.4	23.1	21.0	21.9
Boston prices									
Farm price	53.1	53.3	52.2	60.1	58.9	61.0	50.4	55.0	59.6
Price to retailer	65.7	66.5	66.9	73.5	72.5	75.0	65.5	69.5	73.5
Retail price	81.8	85.5	84.8	93.9	91.0	93.5	87.2	88.5	92.9
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	28.7	32.2	32.6	33.8	32.1	32.5	36.8	33.5	33.3
Farm to retailer	12.6	13.2	14.7	13.4	13.6	14.0	15.1	14.5	13.9
Retail	16.1	19.0	17.9	20.4	18.5	18.5	21.7	19.0	19.4
Chicago prices									
Farm price	49.1	48.3	46.1	53.5	50.5	54.0	45.9	45.8	55.9
Price to retailer	65.7	63.6	62.2	69.0	65.0	70.0	61.5	62.0	71.5
Retail price	77.5	80.0	74.1	84.2	82.7	85.8	74.1	75.0	85.4
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	28.4	31.7	28.0	30.7	32.2	31.8	28.2	29.2	29.5
Farm to retailer	16.6	15.3	16.1	15.5	14.5	16.0	15.6	16.2	15.6
Retail	11.8	16.4	11.9	15.2	17.7	15.8	12.6	13.0	13.9
St. Louis prices									
Farm price	52.9	52.3	50.4	58.2	53.3	59.2	50.2	51.2	60.2
Price to retailer	65.4	65.0	63.2	67.0	67.0	68.0	61.5	62.0	72.0
Retail price	75.7	76.5	74.8	81.3	78.9	82.5	75.6	75.2	83.6
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	22.8	24.2	24.4	23.1	25.6	23.3	25.4	24.0	23.4
Farm to retailer	12.5	12.7	12.8	8.8	13.7	8.8	11.3	10.8	11.8
Retail	10.3	11.5	11.6	14.3	11.9	14.5	14.1	13.2	11.6
Atlanta prices									
Farm prices	50.9	50.0	46.2	53.5	50.5	53.0	45.0	46.0	56.0
Price to retailer	64.1	63.8	62.5	69.5	66.5	67.2	63.5	61.5	71.5
Retail price	77.2	78.0	77.0	82.9	80.1	85.6	78.5	78.9	86.3
Price spreads									
Farm to consumer	26.3	28.0	30.8	29.4	29.6	32.6	33.5	32.9	30.3
Farm to retailer	13.2	13.8	16.3	16.0	16.0	14.2	18.5	15.5	15.5
Retail	13.1	14.2	14.5	13.4	13.6	18.4	15.0	17.4	14.8

[1] Selected cities and 10-city average.

COMMERCIAL EGG PRODUCTION COSTS IN FOUR REGIONS, 1973-74.

By
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ABSTRACT: Records from 243 farms in major producing areas of the United States indicate for 1973-74 costs averaged about 41.4 cents per dozen. Some regional differences exist in production costs and practices in producing market eggs. Contract and independent producer's costs within each region averaged about the same. Feed accounted for almost 69 percent of total costs, replacement pullet costs for almost 20 percent, and overhead costs for over 6 percent.

KEYWORDS: Eggs, production, costs, efficiency.

Costs of producing market eggs averaged as much as 50 percent higher in 1973-75 than in the preceding 5 years. Most of this increase resulted from substantial increases in feed ingredient costs, although many other variable and fixed costs also rose. Because feed prices were generally higher in 1974, egg production costs were higher than in either 1973 or 1975.

Egg production costs vary as much as 3 cents per dozen between major producing regions. They tend to be highest in the Northeast and on the Pacific Coast and lower in the South and Midwest. Costs also vary widely within each region, depending on flock size, efficiency, and feed ingredients, milling, and distribution costs. Table 1 compares cost data collected by the Georgia, Missouri, and Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Stations under cooperative agreements with the Economic Research Service plus preliminary estimates for California.

Records from the four regions show that total costs, not including operator labor and return to management, were 41.4 cents per dozen in the 2-year period, 1973-74. Feed accounted for nearly 69 percent of total costs, replacement pullet costs for almost 20 percent, overhead costs for over 6 percent, and hired labor, utilities, and miscellaneous costs for 5 percent. Prior to 1973, feed costs accounted for a somewhat smaller percent of total costs.

For the sample farms in the study, feed prices per ton averaged highest in the Northeast—over $20 per ton higher than in California and $10 or more per ton higher than in the Midwest and South. Records indicate that feed prices tend to be lower with large integrated complexes—due to volume of feed—than with many smaller independent flocks or with contract flocks. Feed prices in some areas (especially the Northeast) charged to contract production also typically include charges for other inputs, such as medication. Regional differences in feed prices were generally reflected in feed costs per dozen in the Northeast, South, and Midwest with the amount of feed used per dozen eggs close to 4.2 pounds in all three regions. In California, where feed use per dozen was about 4.7 pounds per dozen due to the larger proportion of older flocks with force molted birds, the higher rate of feed use offset the lower feed price. Rate of lay averaged higher in the Northeast, South, and Midwest where all-pullet flocks predominated. Laying house mortality in the sample flocks appeared lower in the Northeast and Midwest.

Laying flocks in the Midwest averaged only three-fourths as large as those in the Northeast and South and less than a third as large as those in California. In California, hired labor appears to be a much larger cost item than elsewhere because of the large mechanized operations where hired labor is extensively substituted for family labor. Variations in record-keeping systems and differences in size and types of farms make direct comparisons difficult on many other items. Costs of cases and packing materials were excluded from Table 1 costs to standardize them on a nest-run basis. Although there is considerable variation in

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actual practices, packaging costs ranged from 2-3 cents per dozen for those farms that provided these items.

In the Northeast and South, costs were calculated separately for contract and independent flocks. Independent flocks were generally larger, and they averaged more than twice as large as typical contract flocks in the Northeast and about three times larger in the South. Many independent flocks are part of vertically integrated firms which have lower costs per dozen eggs for feed and pullets and higher costs for hired labor, utilities, and overhead. However, total production costs for contract and independent producers within each region were nearly the same, although costs were substantially lower in the South (Table 2).

Since November 1974, estimaed U.S. costs of producing market eggs have been carried in the Poultry and Egg Situation. The 1973-74 average of these costs was 43.6 cents per dozen, which was very close to the 44.4 cents per dozen average for total contract costs reported in the samples for the Northeast and South.

Feed prices for egg producers dropped substantially after late 1974 and early 1975. The decline in price per ton reduced feed costs about 4 cents per dozen. Other costs have continued to increase, however, and grower payments in many areas may have increased also, some as much as ½ cent per dozen. Producers generally showed a positive net return to labor and management in 1973, but due to sharp increases in feed prices, they showed a negative return in 1974. With market prices for eggs in 1975 averaging only slightly lower, but with feed prices down substantially from 1974, producer net returns again became positive in 1975.

Table 1—Commercial Egg Production Costs and Efficiency, Four Regions, 1973-74

Item	Northeast	South	Midwest	California[1]
Sample characteristics:				
Farms (no.)	67	103	51	22
Layers per farm (1,000)	24.2	28.2	19.2	60
Eggs sold per fm (1,000 cs.)	15.1	17.9	12.2	37.8
Rate of lay (% H.H.)	62.6	63.5	62.5	62.0
Feed conversion (lbs./doz.)	4.18	4.24	4.18	4.70
Mortality (%)	10.7	15.1	12.9	16
Costs, cents per dozen				
Feed	30.17	27.56	28.00	28.25
Replacement pullets	8.97	8.15	8.33	7.25
Hired labor	.47	.92	.80	2.15
Utilities	.70	.28	.55	.50
Other variable	.27	.69	.37	.40
Total variable costs	40.58	37.60	38.05	38.55
Depreciation	1.13	1.18	1.55	1.20
Repairs, maintenance	.20	.28	.20	.20
Taxes, interest	.80	.94	.88	1.40
Insurance	.17	.14	.18	.20
Total fixed costs	2.30	2.54	2.81	3.00
Total costs[2]	42.88	40.14	40.86	41.55

[1] Interpolated mainly from San Diego County record summaries. Cost categories adjusted based on other area records. [2] Not including operator labor, return to management, packaging, assembly and delivery operations.

Table 2—Egg Production Costs of Contract and Independent Flocks in the Northeast and South and United States average, 1973-74

Item	Northeast		South		ERS national-level series
	Contract flocks	Independent flocks	Contract flocks	Independent flocks	
	(Cents per dozen eggs)	*(Cents per dozen eggs)*	*(Cents per dozen eggs)*	*(Cents per dozen eggs)*	*(Cents per dozen eggs)*
Feed cost	31.03	29.73	27.90	26.61	---
Other costs	11.97	13.10	12.64	14.14	---
Total costs[1]	43.00	42.83	40.54	40.75	---
Feed costs	---	---	---	---	30.15
Contractor costs	40.50	---	36.69	---	---
Grower payment	6.47	---	5.20	---	---
Other costs	---	---	---	---	12.45
Total costs[2]	46.97	---	41.89	---	43.60

[1] Not including operator labor and return to management. [2] Including operator labor and return to management, or contract grower payment.

Table 17—Selected poultry and egg statistics*

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 1, 5-6.—Number of layers on farms, rate of egg production, and total egg output on farms, 50 States														
Average for the month														
Number of layers on farms														
1974	Mil.	298	296	294	290	285	281	280	278	279	281	284	285	286
1975	Mil.	285	282	280	276	272	271	270	271	274	277	279	280	276
1976	Mil.	280												
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1974	No.	1,920	1,759	1,977	1,932	2,007	1,938	1,975	1,955	1,879	1,930	1,870	1,937	231
1975	No.	1,953	1,771	1,972	1,922	1,991	1,933	1,995	1,991	1,914	1,966	1,904	1,968	233
1976	No.	1,970												
Total monthly egg production														
1974	Mil. cs.	15.8	14.5	16.1	15.5	15.9	15.1	15.3	15.1	14.5	15.1	14.7	15.4	183.0
1975	Mil. cs.	15.4	13.9	15.3	14.7	15.1	14.5	15.0	15.0	14.6	15.1	14.8	15.3	178.7
1976	Mil. cs.	15.3												
First of month														
Number of layers on farms														
1974	Mil.	297	296	296	292	287	283	280	279	278	280	282	285	
1975	Mil.	286	284	281	278	274	271	270	270	273	276	278	280	
1976	Mil.	280	280											
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1974	No.	61.6	62.3	63.4	64.1	64.7	64.8	64.3	63.1	63.0	62.2	62.3	62.3	
1975	No.	62.6	63.2	63.3	64.0	64.1	64.3	64.5	64.1	64.3	63.3	63.3	63.6	
1976	No.	63.4	63.8											
Daily rate of egg production														
1974	Mil.	183	184	187	187	186	183	180	176	175	174	175	177	
1975	Mil.	179	179	178	178	176	174	174	173	176	175	176	178	
1976	Mil.	178	179											
Tables 7-9.—Factors in monthly supply of shell eggs, 50 States														
Eggs produced on farms														
1974	1,000 cs.	15,808	14,453	16,139	15,544	15,883	15,150	15,333	15,117	14,547	15,061	14,736	15,358	183,129
1975	1,000 cs.	15,444	13,892	15,317	14,725	15,069	14,528	14,964	15,006	14,589	15,133	14,758	15,300	178,725
1976	1,000 cs.	15,317												
Storage movement of shell eggs														
1974	1,000 cs.	-11	19	17	7	20	3	6	-17	-8	3	-21	-16	2
1975	1,000 cs.	-4	16	-16	-7	43	14	8	-10	-8	-17	-15	-17	-13
1976	1,000 cs.	-10												
Eggs broken commercially														
1974	1,000 cs.	1,435	1,502	1,821	1,862	2,146	2,109	2,071	1,934	1,842	1,749	1,462	1,242	20,975
1975	1,000 cs.	1,441	1,218	1,215	1,455	1,651	1,898	1,957	1,738	1,698	1,702	1,234	1,229	18,436
1976	1,000 cs.													
Eggs used for hatching														
1974	1,000 cs.	1,013	1,190	1,193	1,214	1,109	999	969	878	877	908	988	998	12,336
1975	1,000 cs.	958	1,123	1,120	1,153	1,089	1,068	1,049	973	986	982	1,049	1,090	12,639
1976	1,000 cs.													
Balance														
1974	1,000 cs.	13,371	11,742	13,108	12,461	12,608	12,039	12,287	12,322	12,036	12,401	12,307	13,134	149,816
1975	1,000 cs.	13,049	11,535	12,998	12,124	12,286	11,548	11,950	12,305	11,914	12,466	12,490	12,998	147,663
1976	1,000 cs.													
Tables 13-14.—Commercial production of poultry and red meat, 48 States														
Chicken and turkey meat, Ready-to-cook weight[1]														
1974	Mil. lb.	933	766	806	832	944	920	1,002	1,023	898	1,015	800	768	10,707
1975	Mil. lb.	781	676	736	825	831	884	967	942	978	1,067	834	914	10,434
1976	Mil. lb.													
Total red meat, carcass weight[2]														
1974	Mil. lb.	3,255	2,661	3,098	3,149	3,266	2,945	3,026	3,132	3,074	3,471	3,155	3,088	37,323
1975	Mil. lb.	3,307	2,878	2,967	3,088	2,864	2,832	2,841	2,860	3,089	3,339	2,980	3,160	36,195
1976	Mil. lb.													
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weight														
Young														
1974	Mil. lb.	713.1	601.2	641.9	672.4	745.0	687.2	720.1	713.8	621.1	686.9	524.5	589.6	7,917
1975	Mil. lb.	646.2	570.2	616.6	688.3	690.1	683.1	714.2	680.5	684.9	739.8	560.7	691.4	7,966
1976	Mil. lb.													
Mature														
1974	Mil. lb.	49.2	44.6	51.0	50.8	53.0	45.7	40.6	45.1	35.2	41.6	40.1	38.1	535
1975	Mil. lb.	47.8	39.1	43.6	44.6	37.0	39.0	34.5	34.0	38.7	42.2	31.7	40.5	473
1976	Mil. lb.													

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 17—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights—Continued														
Total														
1974	Mil. lb.	762.3	645.8	692.9	723.3	798.0	732.9	760.7	758.9	656.2	728.6	564.6	627.7	8,452
1975	Mil. lb.	694.0	609.4	660.2	732.9	727.0	722.1	748.7	714.6	723.5	782.0	592.4	732.0	8,439
1976	Mil. lb.													
Table 26.—Turkey certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Fryer-roasters														
1974	Mil. lb.	8.9	9.1	8.9	8.3	10.6	11.1	10.0	9.7	5.9	8.0	5.4	3.9	100
1975	Mil. lb.	7.0	6.9	7.5	7.7	6.9	7.2	8.3	7.0	6.8	8.8	8.2	7.0	89
1976	Mil. lb.													
Young turkeys														
1974	Mil. lb.	87.3	49.4	48.6	69.0	100.6	144.9	199.2	225.8	213.3	252.4	209.7	115.8	1,716
1975	Mil. lb.	56.8	39.9	45.8	60.5	73.6	128.3	181.3	194.7	221.1	248.3	211.9	150.1	1,612
1976	Mil. lb.													
Old turkeys														
1974	Mil. lb.	1.1	1.3	1.4	2.8	2.1	3.8	3.8	1.7	.9	.6	.1	.3	20
1975	Mil. lb.	1.1	.3	1.2	.6	1.5	2.9	3.7	1.6	1.0	.4	.1	.3	15
1976	Mil. lb.													
Total turkeys														
1974	Mil. lb.	97.3	59.8	58.9	80.1	113.2	159.7	213.1	237.2	220.2	261.1	215.2	119.9	1,836
1975	Mil. lb.	64.9	47.1	54.4	68.7	81.9	138.4	193.2	203.3	229.0	257.5	220.2	157.5	1,716
1976	Mil. lb.													
Table 27.—Ducks, and total poultry certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Ducks														
1974	Mil. lb.	3.0	2.3	2.5	4.4	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.0	5.1	3.5	3.2	51
1975	Mil. lb.	2.5	2.2	2.8	4.7	5.0	5.8	5.3	4.6	4.8	4.7	3.7	3.9	50
1976	Mil. lb.													
Total poultry														
1974	Mil. lb.	862.8	708.0	754.4	807.8	916.9	898.5	979.8	1,001.8	881.6	996.1	785.1	751.2	10,344
1975	Mil. lb.	761.6	658.7	717.6	806.5	814.1	866.5	947.5	922.7	957.5	1,045.6	817.7	893.5	10,210
1976	Mil. lb.													
Table 28.—Chicken and turkey inspected for further processing in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weight														
Chicken														
Young														
1974	Mil. lb.	45.1	41.7	46.8	45.8	44.0	38.3	36.3	40.7	39.3	41.9	42.7	33.3	496
1975	Mil. lb.	39.6	35.6	38.4	41.9	40.9	47.3	48.2	48.0	50.3	55.3	45.4	49.7	541
1976	Mil. lb.													
Mature														
1974	Mil. lb.	45.8	40.4	40.6	38.5	35.8	27.2	24.7	34.5	34.0	40.7	33.1	28.0	423
1975	Mil. lb.	31.2	24.4	25.6	29.1	21.8	28.3	25.5	27.7	31.9	38.3	34.1	38.2	356
1976	Mil. lb.													
Total														
1974	Mil. lb.	90.9	82.1	87.4	84.3	79.7	65.5	61.1	75.1	73.3	82.5	75.8	61.3	919
1975	Mil. lb.	70.8	60.0	64.0	71.0	62.7	75.6	73.8	75.7	82.2	93.7	79.6	87.9	897
1976	Mil. lb.													
Turkey														
1974	Mil. lb.	54.9	41.2	44.8	47.9	60.5	72.4	90.8	110.0	101.4	117.6	88.1	66.9	896
1975	Mil. lb.	45.8	40.4	44.7	49.1	45.3	69.1	99.1	107.4	111.8	129.1	98.9	67.2	908
1976	Mil. lb.													
Table 32.—Per capita consumption of shell eggs														
Shell equivalent:														
1974	No.	22.8	19.8	22.2	21.0	21.2	20.2	20.7	20.9	20.3	20.9	20.6	22.1	253
1975	do.	22.0	19.4	21.9	20.3	20.5	19.2	20.0	20.6	19.8	20.8	20.8	21.6	247
1976	do.													
Tables 34-41.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per dozen for shell eggs														
United States, received by farmers[3]														
1974	Cents	66.6	63.9	56.7	50.1	42.2	39.8	43.8	47.8	54.8	54.9	55.4	59.0	52.9
1975	do.	57.1	54.3	54.1	47.4	47.8	45.7	46.4	50.5	55.8	52.8	57.7	64.1	52.8
1976	do.	62.2												
Grade A large eggs in retail stores[4] [5]														
1974	do.	93.0	94.5	85.6	78.1	64.9	62.5	62.3	71.1	79.0	83.9	81.0	84.1	78.3
1975	do.	84.2	83.9	74.9	77.2	70.6	66.9	70.8	73.7	79.9	77.7	78.1	86.1	77.0
1976	do.	89.2												

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 17—Selected poultry and egg statistics[a]—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 34-41.—Monthly average price per dozen shell eggs—Continued														
Iowa, received by farmers														
Buyer quality and volume incentive														
Large														
1974	Cents	63.16	58.33	50.90	42.52	31.57	31.08	36.27	42.45	49.58	49.81	49.85	54.69	46.68
1975	do.	50.25	43.34	45.26	36.09	36.86	36.90	39.27	44.64	49.43	45.12	51.05	58.52	44.73
1976	do.	56.12												
Medium														
1974	do.	57.99	51.32	43.98	33.12	22.59	20.61	27.86	33.59	43.82	45.14	43.38	49.05	39.37
1975	do.	44.32	37.21	37.38	30.46	26.26	25.90	27.89	34.02	39.31	38.55	42.95	53.25	36.46
1976	do.	48.93												
Price to volume buyers[b]														
14 Metro areas:														
Large														
1974	do.	77.46	72.17	64.46	58.27	49.52	48.72	53.89	60.54	67.23	66.01	65.70	71.42	62.85
1975	do.	67.82	63.14	64.24	55.56	55.37	54.40	56.76	62.28	66.85	62.37	69.08	75.81	62.81
1976	do.	73.30												
Los Angeles, Grade AA:														
Large														
1974	do.	75.73	71.34	61.24	56.21	54.50	51.60	55.86	60.55	67.80	64.12	64.30	70.07	62.76
1975	do.	68.32	68.71	68.55	58.74	60.26	58.50	58.75	61.64	66.78	63.74	70.00	75.48	64.96
1976	do.													
Medium														
1974	do.	73.73	67.08	57.19	52.50	45.77	44.50	47.59	52.77	62.15	60.26	63.20	69.07	57.98
1975	do.	67.32	67.71	65.67	53.85	54.55	50.50	49.27	52.74	59.78	60.93	69.00	74.48	60.48
1976	do.													
New York, wholesale prices, white														
Large, 75 percent A														
1974	do.	74.00	68.29	60.20	52.08	42.71	42.83	48.96	55.84	63.07	61.89	61.21	67.26	58.18
1975	do.	62.18	55.44	59.24	50.17	49.26	50.55	52.59	58.21	61.56	56.65	65.67	71.85	57.78
1976	do.	68.44												
Medium														
1974	do.	72.00	62.42	55.67	44.03	34.27	32.33	41.57	47.84	58.09	58.40	56.89	64.42	52.33
1975	do.	57.75	50.58	53.24	46.18	40.76	41.43	42.58	48.28	53.07	53.61	59.42	70.50	51.45
1976	do.	64.22												
Midwest, paid delivered[1]														
Large														
1974	do.	76.50	71.25	63.50	56.25	47.00	47.00	51.12	58.10	66.00	65.20	64.13	70.63	61.39
1975	do.	66.20	59.62	61.38	53.25	53.20	52.75	55.20	60.50	65.25	60.90	67.75	74.50	60.88
1976	do.	72.75												
Medium														
1974	do.	74.10	64.38	58.00	48.25	38.60	36.50	43.12	48.70	60.50	62.30	60.25	67.25	55.16
1975	do.	62.00	54.88	55.50	49.50	45.20	44.25	45.60	50.50	56.38	56.60	61.00	72.50	54.49
1976	do.	68.30												

Table 42.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per pound for frozen egg products

New York and Philadelphia														
Frozen egg														
Whole egg, light colored														
1974	Cents	47.38	50.34	46.08	35.94	33.83	32.23	33.72	39.39	43.53	39.74	36.76	37.64	39.72
1975	do.	36.11	33.79	32.39	32.77	37.71	37.53	38.14	39.92	42.44	41.47	42.07	41.75	38.00
1976	do.	41.54												
White														
1974	do.	16.41	17.75	16.50	15.86	15.89	16.44	16.41	19.44	22.72	20.47	17.94	18.22	17.84
1975	do.	17.36	16.62	16.17	16.19	18.59	20.34	20.79	22.12	23.20	22.48	22.94	22.92	19.98
1976	do.	22.39												
Yolks, light colored, sugared,														
43 percent solids														
1974	do.	87.28	89.72	85.13	68.89	60.22	60.39	64.16	72.89	78.94	77.03	73.90	72.61	74.26
1975	do.	69.00	64.85	60.50	57.37	60.39	61.63	62.42	64.00	67.56	67.31	67.71	67.77	64.21
1976	do.	67.50												

Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound

Liveweight														
United States, at farm														
1974	Cents	21.5	23.4	22.2	21.0	20.5	19.0	20.5	20.9	22.8	22.8	24.2	21.9	21.7
1975	do.	24.2	24.6	23.7	23.4	24.6	27.4	30.3	28.8	29.8	28.8	27.2	24.0	26.4
1976	do.	24.3												

[a]See footnotes at end of table.

Table 17—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound—Continued														
Broilers, weighted average, delivered to major areas[5]														
9-City average[6]														
1974	Cents	39.69	39.41	38.76	36.30	35.64	34.05	36.41	36.84	39.89	39.32	41.94	40.71	38.25
1975	do.	41.64	41.37	40.72	40.06	42.88	48.05	51.20	49.96	49.66	47.73	45.82	41.79	45.07
1976	do.	41.89												
Chicago														
1974	do.	39.3	39.8	38.5	36.4	35.5	33.8	36.3	36.7	39.8	39.0	41.8	40.2	38.1
1975	do.	42.8	40.9	40.2	39.8	42.3	46.9	50.9	49.6	49.6	47.2	45.6	41.7	44.8
1976	do.	41.7												
New York														
1974	do.	38.5	38.5	37.6	33.6	34.8	33.9	35.7	36.2	39.5	39.3	41.4	39.8	37.4
1975	do.	41.6	41.3	40.3	39.7	42.0	47.2	51.4	49.6	49.7	47.6	45.2	40.6	44.7
1976	do.	41.6												
Los Angeles														
1974	do.	41.2	41.5	40.5	38.1	36.6	34.8	38.0	38.1	40.8	40.2	42.8	41.0	39.5
1975	do.	43.4	42.5	42.0	42.0	44.2	48.0	52.2	51.0	50.9	48.9	47.2	43.3	46.3
1976	do.	43.4												
Frying chicken in retail stores[4]														
1974	do.	59.2	58.7	57.5	55.6	52.2	51.2	51.8	53.5	57.0	56.2	58.2	60.4	56.0
1975	do.	59.3	58.6	58.8	57.6	57.9	61.5	68.3	68.6	69.9	66.9	66.5	65.5	63.3
1976	do.	63.8												
Chicken breasts, in retail stores[4]														
1974	do.	100.1	100.4	99.9	98.0	95.8	94.4	94.6	97.3	99.3	99.0	100.5	102.5	98.5
1975	do.	102.3	103.4	102.9	101.3	103.0	107.2	116.7	117.1	118.0	116.1	115.8	115.3	119.6
1976	do.	112.9												
Tables 50-54.—Average turkey prices per pound														
Liveweight[3]														
U.S., at farm														
1974	Cents	34.9	32.6	32.3	27.7	24.6	23.6	23.0	27.1	27.3	28.0	30.5	33.4	28.8
1975	do.	31.8	30.8	30.3	28.7	30.8	32.3	34.1	35.2	36.0	36.1	36.5	36.0	33.2
1976	do.	33.6												
Turkeys in retail stores[4]														
1974	do.	85.4	80.4	79.6	75.8	70.5	68.1	65.9	66.0	69.8	71.2	71.0	68.9	72.7
1975	do.	69.2	71.6	70.4	69.0	69.1	70.9	71.4	74.5	75.5	76.7	77.4	75.8	72.6
1976	do.	75.4												
Wholesale frozen (average f.o.b. or equivalent)														
New York:														
Young hens, 8-16 pounds														
1974	do.	48.6	51.3	50.7	42.2	39.7	37.4	39.7	49.6	47.0	48.2	53.6	57.9	47.2
1975	do.	51.6	46.9	47.3	48.3	51.6	53.4	56.0	58.0	57.2	58.1	57.3	52.6	53.2
1976	do.	47.1												
Young toms, 14-20 pounds														
1974	do.	48.2	48.2	46.7	39.4	38.4	34.5	37.0	43.1	42.6	45.7	50.6	52.8	43.9
1975	do.	49.1	46.0	43.7	43.3	46.9	49.6	52.7	56.2	57.0	57.2	56.7	54.4	51.8
1976	do.	46.8												
Paid at seller's dock, frozen														
New York														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1974	do.	58.6	55.4	55.7	47.5	44.1	41.3	41.5	52.7	52.1	52.3	57.2	61.9	51.7
1975	do.	57.5	50.2	57.2	52.3	55.3	57.0	59.3	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	57.9	57.0
1976	do.													
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1974	do.	60.7	54.2	51.9	45.3	48.4	52.5	52.6	55.8	55.7	54.4	56.3	58.8	53.9
1975	do.	59.0	56.7	55.0	52.0	52.6	56.5	59.5	61.8	64.3	66.8	69.9	70.0	60.3
1976	do.													
Chicago														
Hens, 12-14 pounds														
1974	do.	51.1	51.8	52.1	46.4	43.0	40.1	41.0	50.8	50.5	50.6	54.9	60.6	49.4
1975	do.	58.7	52.2	50.5	50.6	53.3	54.7	57.1	58.8	58.5	59.3	60.5	57.0	55.9
1976	do.													
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1974	do.	63.2	57.9	54.9	43.7	46.0	50.3	50.7	54.8	56.3	55.4	55.5	57.0	53.8
1975	do.	57.0	56.7	55.2	55.0	55.0	56.0	57.0	60.3	62.1	65.1	67.2	68.0	59.6
1976	do.													
Tables 57-60.—Prices paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios														
All poults each														
1974	Cents	64.8	65.1	67.0	68.3	67.9	69.0	68.4	67.4	67.3	67.4	67.2	68.8	67.4
1975	do.	68.7	69.5	70.1	70.0	70.0	71.0	73.9	70.6	70.4	68.6	67.6	68.8	69.9
1976	do.	68.9												

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 17–Selected poultry and egg statistics*–Continued

Item	Data in–	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 57-60.–Price paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios–Continued														
Feed per ton														
Laying feed														
1974	Dollars	152	153	151	144	137	137	141	168	163	168	167	164	154
1975	do.	160	151	143	146	145	144	145	150	149	148	143	143	147
1976	do.	143												
Broiler grower feed														
1974	do.	170	169	165	156	151	151	157	180	176	185	183	180	169
1975	do.	176	167	161	164	161	162	161	163	164	164	158	160	163
1976	do.	158												
Turkey grower feed														
1974	do.	172	172	168	162	156	153	158	188	183	189	187	184	173
1975	do.	178	168	161	165	164	165	163	168	170	170	164	165	167
1976	do.	165												
Corn, Chicago No. 2 yellow (per bushel)														
1974	Cents	293	310	301	246	269	292	328	365	353	385	349	355	321
1975	do.	309	300	296	304	288	291	286	317	301	276	264	259	291
1976	do.	268												
Soybean meal, 44 percent, Decatur (per ton, bulk)														
1974	Dollars	172	160	147	117	109	100	138	156	138	168	141	143	141
1975	do.	129	117	118	122	118	121	124	134	134	126	120	125	124
1976	do.	128												
Product-feed price ratios														
Broiler[10]														
1974	Pounds	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.4	2.6
1975	do.	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.4	3.8	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.2
1976	do.	3.1												
Turkey[11]														
1974	do.	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.2
1975	do.	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.0
1976	do.	4.1												
Egg[12]														
1974	do.	8.8	8.4	7.5	7.0	6.2	5.8	6.2	5.7	6.7	6.5	6.6	7.2	6.9
1975	do.	7.1	7.2	7.6	6.5	6.6	6.3	6.4	6.7	7.5	7.1	8.1	9.0	7.2
1976	do.	8.7												
Tables 61-62.–Chicks hatched by types and pullet chicks placed														
Chicks hatched														
Broiler-type														
1974	Mil.	277.5	254.2	296.5	288.9	297.5	276.9	251.1	244.1	220.8	217.1	228.4	252.5	3,104.4
1975	Mil.	252.6	238.5	277.4	274.5	283.7	282.7	269.1	268.7	245.9	248.4	254.1	271.0	3,154.4
1976	Mil.	278.1												
Egg-type														
1974	Mil.	35.1	37.7	46.2	54.6	52.1	43.4	36.7	34.9	32.1	35.5	33.0	32.2	473.4
1975	Mil.	35.0	37.3	46.0	48.1	48.4	40.9	38.5	35.3	34.2	35.3	28.6	31.1	458.7
1976	Mil.	35.7												
Pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks[13]														
Total														
1974	Thou.	2,489	2,474	2,906	2,795	2,754	2,525	2,259	2,268	2,160	2,141	2,171	2,302	29,264
1975	Thou.	2,199	2,128	2,744	2,485	2,874	2,459	2,461	2,807	2,599	2,424	2,250	2,353	29,583
1976	Thou.	2,403												
Cumulation relevant to breeder flock[14]														
1974	Thou.	20,789	20,893	21,232	21,495	22,246	21,496	20,831	20,362	20,309	20,720	20,927	21,028	
1975	Thou.	20,632	20,585	20,490	20,161	19,828	19,093	18,600	18,045	17,648	18,133	18,330	19,044	
1976	Thou.	19,362	19,652	19,957	20,357	20,853	20,159	20,027	19,556					
1977	Thou.													
Table 63.–Poults hatched by breeds														
Poults hatched														
Light breeds														
1974	Thou.	1,324	1,193	1,502	1,478	1,381	1,381	1,096	779	515	1,185	1,302	1,284	14,420
1975	Thou.	1,226	1,403	1,499	1,648	1,561	1,417	1,518	1,273	800	1,025	1,335	1,541	16,246
1976	Thou.	1,794												
Total heavy breeds														
1974	Thou.	9,572	12,794	17,938	19,172	18,687	15,718	11,858	6,273	2,655	3,008	3,685	5,239	125,599
1975	Thou.	7,490	10,794	14,796	17,273	17,711	16,235	12,822	7,331	3,596	3,457	4,164	6,253	121,921
1976	Thou.	8,719												
All breeds														
1974	Thou.	10,896	13,987	19,440	20,650	20,068	17,099	12,954	6,052	3,170	4,193	4,987	6,523	140,019
1975	Thou.	8,716	12,197	16,294	18,921	19,272	17,652	14,340	8,604	4,396	4,482	5,499	7,794	138,167
1976	Thou.	10,513												

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 17—Selected poultry and egg statistics* —Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 66.—Cold storage holdings of shell and frozen eggs, first of month														
All frozen eggs														
1974	Mil. lb.	43.2	37.7	35.7	39.4	43.6	49.6	55.6	59.1	63.4	65.6	64.7	60.1	
1975	Mil. lb.	54.2	52.2	51.8	47.0	43.6	44.8	48.0	51.2	51.9	51.2	46.6	42.3	
1976	Mil. lb.	36.3	32.9											
Shell eggs														
1974	1,000 cs.	34	23	42	59	66	86	89	95	78	70	73	52	
1975	1,000 cs.	36	32	48	32	25	68	82	90	80	72	55	40	
1976	1,000 cs.	23	13											
Shell equivalent of all eggs														
1974	1,000 cs.	1,128	978	946	1,056	1,169	1,341	1,496	1,591	1,683	1,730	1,711	1,574	
1975	1,000 cs.	1,408	1,354	1,358	1,222	1,128	1,202	1,296	1,386	1,393	1,368	1,233	1,110	
1976	1,000 cs.	941	845											
Tables 68-69.—Cold storage holdings of poultry, first of the month														
Total frozen														
Turkey														
1974	Mil. lb.	281.0	274.0	250.5	235.9	225.0	227.4	265.8	335.8	431.8	528.7	554.6	372.0	
1975	Mil. lb.	275.0	267.1	240.2	207.1	177.6	159.6	193.0	247.7	328.5	409.2	483.5	287.6	
1976	Mil. lb.	195.2	188.7											
Chicken														
Hens														
1974	Mil. lb.	47.2	43.9	40.4	44.4	46.5	53.1	57.6	62.7	64.8	61.3	60.0	55.1	
1975	Mil. lb.	54.0	55.7	55.4	57.1	56.9	55.7	55.7	50.5	50.2	49.0	44.8	41.6	
1976	Mil. lb.	39.2	34.7											
Broilers, fryers and roasters														
1974	Mil. lb.	33.4	32.5	32.6	34.6	33.8	37.5	36.6	34.3	34.2	35.4	36.3	37.0	
1975	Mil. lb.	37.2	31.1	33.8	28.8	28.5	24.3	22.7	19.2	22.8	22.9	21.7	21.4	
1976	Mil. lb.	22.3	21.3											
Tables 70-71.—Exports of fresh or frozen poultry														
Broilers														
1974	Thou. lb.	11,159	9,672	13,610	9,511	8,106	8,014	13,272	8,890	8,179	8,650	7,866	8,413	115,340
1975	Thou. lb.	10,268	9,841	9,903	11,620	12,595	11,858	10,851	11,931	10,615	13,046	11,483	13,720	137,731
1976	Thou. lb.													
Turkeys														
1974	Thou. lb.	4,386	3,477	4,732	2,195	2,770	3,574	2,897	2,788	1,924	4,108	3,664	3,078	39,594
1975	Thou. lb.	1,384	2,551	2,979	2,952	2,851	3,807	4,389	4,023	5,293	7,139	5,368	4,507	47,244
1976	Thou. lb.													
Tables 72-75.—USDA contracts to purchase chicken, and turkey														
Young chickens, ready-to-cook wt.														
1974	Mil. lb.	9.3	8.7	---	---	---	---	1.9	3.5	3.0	6.5	7.1	7.9	47.9
1975	Mil. lb.	3.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	7.3	6.8	7.0	5.2	30.0
1976	Mil. lb.	7.6	3.6											
Canned boned chicken														
1974	Doz. cans	193.8	193.8	---	---	---	---	91.8	234.6	224.4	163.2	13.6	---	1,115.1
1975	Doz. cans	---	---	---	---	---	105.4	---	---	57.8	88.4	105.4	336.6	693.5
1976	Doz. cans	231.2												
Canned boney turkey														
1974	Doz. cans	95.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	95.2
1975	Doz. cans	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1976	Doz. cans	---												
Turkey, ready-to-cook wt.														
1974	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	9.3	3.1	15.8	9.5	3.7	9.8	51.4
1975	Mil. lb.	2.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.1	6.9	10.4	---	---	---
1976	Mil. lb.	---												

[1] Chicken and turkey meat, excludes slaughter on farms. [2] Excludes farm slaughter, lard and rendered pork fat. [3] Price reported as a price at mid-month. [4] Reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices are collected on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the week that includes the first Tuesday of the month. [5] Includes price for Grade AA eggs in Anchorage, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle, and Grade AA and ungraded eggs in some small cities. [6] Weighted average price to volume buyers for Consumer Grade A white eggs in cartons delivered to store door. [7] Prices paid by first receivers for cartoned Grade A eggs [8] delivered FOB Midwestern cities. Prior to January 1974, reported as average price paid delivered to Chicago, loose, white, minimum 80 percent A. [9] Trucklot sales of U.S. Grade A and plant grade ready-to-cook, ice-packed broiler-fryers. [10] Computed by weighting the city averages by their metropolitan area populations. The 9 cities are: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and San Francisco. [11] Pounds of broiler grower equal in value to 1 lb. of broiler liveweight. [12] Pounds of turkey grower equal in value to 1 lb. of turkey liveweight. [13] Pounds of laying feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs. [14] Placements reported by leading breeders. [15] Sum of domestic placements 7-14 months previous.

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